

DHCS Behavioral Health Forum
Strengthening Specialty Mental Health and Drug Medi-Cal County
Programs and Delivery Systems

Strengthening Forum - Charter

Background and Purpose of the Behavioral Health Forum:

The Behavioral Health Forum provides key stakeholders, and other interested parties, with updates regarding critical policy and programmatic issues impacting public mental health and substance use disorder services (MHSUDS). The Behavioral Health Forum will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to learn about the status of more than 100 program and policy issues identified in the DHCS Business Plan, as well as from other sources, such as the *California Mental Health and Substance Use System Needs Assessment and Service Plan*, which have been organized into a grid format and assigned to four Forums (Strengthen Specialty Mental Health and Drug Medi-Cal County Programs and Delivery Systems; Coordinated and Integrated Systems of Care for MHSUDS and Medical Care; Coordinated and Useful Data Collection, Utilization, and Evaluation of Outcomes; and Simplified and Cost Effective Fiscal Models). Each of these forums will provide DHCS with a venue for updating stakeholders on identified priority areas. These forums will also give stakeholders across the state and interested parties an opportunity to provide input on these priorities. Stakeholder participation will vary depending on the particular topic being addressed by that forum. If appropriate, DHCS will convene workgroups of key stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop recommendations related to specific program and policy issues.

Strengthening Forum

The Strengthening Forum will specifically address key areas related to improving and enhancing existing state and county level delivery systems for MHSUDs.

Objectives:

- Improve access to public mental health and substance use disorder services
- Enhance quality assurance efforts and improve quality of care for mental health and substance use disorder services
- Pursue solutions to provide counties with greater flexibility to manage fiscal and program risks
- Develop mechanisms that advocate for behavioral health treatment parity in health care
- Make recommendations to support the development of an adequate and trained workforce
- Promote opportunities to increase sustainability of substance use disorder provider organizations

FY 2015/2016 Priorities:

DHCS identified several priority areas (listed in bold below) for the current fiscal year. The bullets listed under each priority area represent those corresponding items from the stakeholder issues grid. These grid items may inform the discussion, recommendations, and/or work plan related to the overarching priority area. However, additional issues and/or requirements (not listed below) may also inform the priority area.

➤ **Children’s Behavioral Health**

- Out of County Mental Health Services - In June 2011 the California Child Welfare Council (CWC) Out-of-County Mental Health Services Work Group’s Data Linkage and Information Sharing Committee released a report entitled, “Data Mining Project.”[i] The CWC commissioned the report to document the extent to which foster children placed out-of-county received medically needed specialty mental health services. The report examined the rate of specialty mental health services provided to these children placed “out-of-county” versus those served within the county. The findings, while not definitive, suggested that children placed out-of-county had a lower rate of mental health services provided when compared to children served in their counties of origin (county of jurisdiction). The CWC attributed the lower rate of service was the result of administrative and programmatic barriers between the county of jurisdiction and the county where-in the child is placed, as referred as the host county

➤ **Compliance and Monitoring**

- Focus on ensuring compliance with key mandates – i.e. regulations & standards for program quality, access & availability for all services (Grid Issue #17)
 - Increase and improve oversight and monitoring of Specialty MH Services
 - Increase and improve oversight of DMC Programs

➤ **Cultural Competence Plans**

- Leadership in addressing health disparities, dealing underserved groups and enhancing cultural responsiveness of services (Grid Issue #19)
- Are health disparities being addressed in terms of the degree to which special populations are accessing and utilizing mental health and substance use services? (Grid Issue #19)
- State and Counties should explore the feasibility of collaborating on how best to increase cultural/linguistic competence in provider networks. (Grid Issue #20)

➤ **DMC – Organized Delivery System Waiver**

Forum Details:

Date	March 2015
Chairs	Dina Kokkos-Gonzales, Mental Health Services Marjorie McKisson, Substance Use Disorder Services
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^[1] Data Mining Project: In and Out-of-County Foster Care Placements and receipt of Mental Health Services, State Fiscal Year 2008-09

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