



Department of  
Health Care Services



# Specialty Mental Health Services Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Notes – 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Friday, June 25, 2010

*Participants: Stan Bajorin (DMH), Sean Tracy (DMH), Vanessa Baird (DHCS), Dina Kokkos-Gonzales (DHCS), Shelly Osuna (DHCS), Rollin Ives (DMH), Don Kingdon (CMHDA, by phone), John Lessley (DMH), Renae Rodocker (DMH), JaMilah Bridges (DMH), Erika Cristo (DMH), Carla Minor (DMH), Fran Edelstein (CACFS), Teresa Castillo (DHCS), Richard Hildebrand (DHCS), Jalal Haddad (DHCS), Francisco Castillon (DHCS), Trula LaCalle (NAMI), Diane Van Maren (SBFR), Emine Gunhan (DHCS), Charles Anders (DMH), Vicki Nazaroff (DHCS), Peter Castle (CASRA), Nicette Short (CACFS), Steve Bechtold (DMH), Uma Zykofsky (CMHDA), Suzanne Tavano (CMHDA), Rusty Selix (CCCMHA), Sharon Kuehn (CNMHC), Michelle Curran (CNMHC), Amanda Ridgeway (DHCS), Thomas Reavey (DHCS), Hon Chan (DMH, by phone), Gurubanda Khalsa (LACDMH, by phone), Delphine Brody (NARPA, by phone), Giang Nguyen (DMH, by phone).*

## **Introductions and Purpose:**

- Introductions were made in the room and on the phone.
- DMH will launch a new webpage for the Specialty Mental Health Services Stakeholders Workgroup.
- The administration of this workgroup is under the Benefits Program Administration in DMH. The DMH contact for the Specialty Mental Health Services Stakeholders Workgroup is JaMilah Bridges:  
[jamilah.bridges@dmh.ca.gov](mailto:jamilah.bridges@dmh.ca.gov)
- The objective of the Specialty Mental Health Stakeholders meeting was to engage in an educational and informative discussion to provide status on California's Medicaid State Plan, State Plan Amendment (SPA#09-004), and Specialty Mental Health Services 1915(b) Waiver.

## **State Plan and Waiver 101:**

- DHCS presented an overview of agency roles, State Plan, SPA, and Waiver. There was a discussion of the SPA development and approval process between CMS, DHCS, DMH, and stakeholders.
- Information on types of Medicaid waivers was provided, with a focus on the Specialty Mental Health Services Waiver authority, purpose, and renewal process.

## **State Plan Amendment #09-004:**

- Coverage and Fiscal/Reimbursement sections of the SPA were presented by DMH. DHCS, DMH, and stakeholders engaged in dialogue regarding the technical modifications and language changes in these sections of the SPA.

**Discussion Topics:**

The following issues, concerns, and questions were raised at the Stakeholder Meeting:

- Will the state reconsider the structure of the current waiver program (i.e. the freedom of choice)?
- Stakeholders expressed the need to identify any changes in the proposed SPA language as compared to the source documents (i.e. Title 9) from where the language was obtained.
- The provision of mental health services across counties should be standardized.
- “Other Qualified Provider” language should be clarified to include all the providers that may be able to provide services under this category.
- Peer Support and Parent Partners services and provider types should be included in the SPA.
- Further clarification is needed regarding Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services:
  - The terms “Restore” and “Improve” may not adequately address/apply to children services.
  - Will Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) language be included in the SPA?
- The removal of “Maintenance” from the SPA is a major concern as stakeholders believe that maintaining a person’s condition/level of functioning is a vital component of the existing waiver program.
- The removal of “includes but is not limited to” is a concern as this may limit the services that can be provided.
- The availability of telemedicine as a means to provide services should be addressed in the SPA.
- The location of family therapy language within the Coverage section of the SPA needs further clarification.
- Why is California limited to less than the maximum federally allowable amount of days of Targeted Case Management (TCM) (federal maximum is up to 180 days and California allows 90 days) for beneficiaries transitioning back into the community?

**Next steps:**

- Schedule additional Specialty Mental Health Services Stakeholder meeting(s).
- Web postings – Draft SPA pages, Q/A document, meeting handouts, and Stakeholder updates will be published on the DMH website. An email announcement will be sent to the group when the new webpage is available.

**Adjourn**