



Family Health Outcomes Project
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Dear CMS Branch Staff and CCS Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Family Health Outcomes Project, we would like to thank you for your participation in the CCS Title V Needs Assessment. The participatory process used in conducting this needs assessment required a very high level of participation from both the CMS Branch staff and CCS Stakeholders. We are happy to report that the level of participation by CMS Branch staff and the Stakeholders not only met but far exceeded our expectations. Numerous stakeholders made time in their already busy lives to participate in conference calls, listen to webinars, review drafts of focus group discussion guides and survey instruments, encourage others to complete our surveys, and help with interpreting program data. The high level of participation strengthened the process and vastly improved both the quality and quantity of data collected for the needs assessment.

While the Stakeholders and Branch Staff brought a diverse variety of expertise and perspectives to the process, all are united in their commitment to serving children with special health care needs and making the CCS program the best it can be. We recognize that this is difficult time for our state. We understand there is a certain level of anxiety among our Stakeholders due to the continuing fiscal challenges, the California Medicaid 1115 Hospital/Uninsured Waiver process as well as the Department of Health Care Services' intention to develop pilot projects to explore potential redesign options for the CCS program. We appreciate the willingness of Stakeholders to share their thoughts and concerns regarding our Title V needs assessment process and to continue to work with us to address their concerns and improve our process and instruments.

The attached report summarizes the needs assessment process utilized, the top priorities selected by Stakeholders for the CCS program, and includes numerous appendices. We strongly encourage you to read through the appendices, particularly the issues briefs and the summaries of responses to our online surveys. They contain a wealth of information we believe will be helpful for developing strategies to increase provider participation in CCS and improving services for the children and families served by CCS.

It has been both an honor and a privilege to work with such a passionate and committed group of people on such an important mission.

Many thanks,

Jennifer Rienks, PhD

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