

SUMMARY #4
STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS DURING SEPTEMBER 19, 2011 STAKEHOLDER MEETING
REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF MEDI-CAL RELATED SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Comments related to presentation of the transition plan:

- At least one client and one family member should be included in the Medi-Cal specialty mental health services audit and provider certification teams (similar to under the Proposition 63/Mental Health Services Act program).
- The new Deputy Director and two new divisions should include responsibility for all mental health and substance abuse services provided by Medi-Cal (e.g. under Fee-for-Service Medi-Cal, Medi-Cal Managed Care, and/or other Medi-Cal waivers such as the new 1115 Bridge to Reform Waiver) as well as other state programs.
- The draft duty statement for the new Deputy Director should be revised to include knowledge of and experience in recovery, resiliency and wellness programs. Implementation of these models is a strong component of the Mental Health Services Act as well as in other mental health programs in the nation. Knowledge of the mental health experience and of mental health lives of clients and family members could also be added to the duty statement.
- Concern was expressed that the specialty mental health services transfer may not include the former State Quality Improvement Committee, which dealt with evaluation issues concerning all mental health clients.
- DHCS should establish greater linkage with the National Alliance on Mental Health.

Comments unrelated to presentation of the transition plan:

- A stakeholder read a statement on behalf of the California Memorial Project in honor of all California state mental hospital patients who lived, died and are buried anonymously in these institutions. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the more than 4,000 unknown mental health patients so interred.
- The Department of Health Care Services should focus strongly on mechanisms to enhance obtaining additional federal funding and making the Medi-Cal specialty mental health services waiver processes more efficient.
- Concern was expressed about the loss of other Medi-Cal benefits (such as dental services) which are being experienced by many specialty mental health services waiver clients due to budget cuts.

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