



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: December 14, 2020

Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 20-070
(Supersedes [DMH Information Notice No. 13-09](#))

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Hospital Association
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations
County Behavioral Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators

SUBJECT: Threshold Languages Data

REFERENCE: California Code of Regulations, Title 9, section 1810.410
DMH Information Notice No. [10-02](#) and [10-17](#)
[2017-2022 MHP Contract](#)

PURPOSE: To explain how Mental Health Plans (MHPs) may obtain threshold language data to meet state and federal linguistic requirements and complete cultural competence plans (CCPs)

BACKGROUND:

MHPs are required to comply with all cultural competence and linguistic requirements in state and federal law, including those in CCR, Title 9, section 1810.410; the contract between the MHP and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)¹; and DMH Information Notice No. [10-02](#) and [10-17](#). As part of these requirements, MHPs must

¹ [See 2017-2022 MHP Contract](#)

develop and implement CCPs.² On an annual basis, DHCS reviews and approves CCP updates submitted by the MHPs.³ DHCS also provides MHPs with access to threshold language data that allow MHPs to meet their legal and contractual obligations, and ensures all beneficiaries have access to culturally and linguistically competent specialty mental health services.

POLICY:

DHCS provides periodic threshold language updates to MHPs to ensure linguistic competence in the public mental health system. Per CCR, Title 9, section 1810.410, subdivision (a)(3), "Threshold Language" means a "language identified as the primary language, as indicated on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System, of 3,000 beneficiaries or five percent of the beneficiary population, whichever is lower, in an identified geographic area."

MHPs can obtain current threshold language data using the California Health and Human Services' [Open Data Portal](#). The data are released quarterly (in January, April, July, and October).

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this BHIN may be directed to the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division, Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Section by email to MCBHD.CCPR@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Marlies Perez, Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division

² Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 1810.410, subd. (c).

³ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 1810.410, subd. (d); [2017-2022 MHP Contract](#), exh. A, att. 7, sec. 2(B).