

CalAIM Behavioral Health Workgroup June 8, 2023 Meeting Summary

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) hosted the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Behavioral Health Workgroup on June 8, 2023.

The meeting was attended by DHCS staff, [workgroup members](#), and members of the public. Tyler Sadwith and Paula Wilhelm presented on behalf of DHCS.

The agenda included:

- CalAIM Behavioral Health (BH) Documentation Redesign initiative update;
- Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) waiver (formerly CalBH-CBC)
- A workgroup discussion; and
- Public comment on the above topics

Discussion Summary:

- After providing an overview of the meeting objectives, Paula Wilhelm provided updates on the CalAIM BH Documentation Redesign initiative. Below is a summary of key points from the workgroup's CalAIM BH Documentation Redesign discussion:
 - Members support DHCS' implementation of the initiative.
 - Some members are concerned about county variability and requested that the Department avoid being overly prescriptive.
 - Some members asked the Department to consider CalAIM Documentation Redesign's impact on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) documentation requirements.
 - Some members request that the Department audit counties based on the new documentation policy.

- Tyler Sadwith presented updates on the BH-CONNECT initiative. Below is a summary of key points from the workgroup's BH-CONNECT discussion.
 - Members requested clarification regarding participation in the Center of Excellence.
 - Several members raised concerns about using the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool to measure outcomes and requested that DHCS consider alternative tools.
 - Several members requested that DHCS engage stakeholders further on BH-CONNECT's impact on partial hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient Programs.
 - Some members raised concerns regarding the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) waiver funding.
- Members of the public were invited to comment. Five individuals provided comments, which are summarized below.
 - A commenter asked if hospitals could attain access to the funds available in the Center for Excellence.
 - A commenter supported the workgroup's request for DHCS to consider other tools to measure outcomes rather than relying on CANS.
 - A commenter asked if peer run centers can be considered a Clubhouse model.
 - A commenter asked about CalAIM's implications for delivering care in other treatment settings.
 - A commenter asked for further clarification on the funding streams for BH-CONNECT.

Next Steps and more information:

- The next CalAIM BH Workgroup is tentatively planned for August 2023.
- Information about CalAIM BH Documentation Redesign initiative can be found on the [CalAIM BH Webpage](#) and information about the BH-CONNECT waiver can be found on the [BH-CONNECT webpage](#).