

Follow-Up Items from October 21, 2021, BH-SAC Webinar

Director's Update

1. *Kiran Savage-Sangwan, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network*: On the vaccine updates, will you be posting or sharing the response plans submitted by MCPs? It appears that some counties' rates have improved, and others are stalled or have gone backward. It would help to know what plans in those counties are doing and what gaps remain.

DHCS Response: *Jacey Cooper, DHCS*: I will follow up on vaccination plans to see how we might share them with all of you.

DHCS Follow-Up: The vaccine response plans that all health plans submitted in order to participate in the Vaccination Incentive Program are posted on the [DHCS website](#).

2. *Rosemary Veniegas, California Community Foundation*: What are the implications from the extension of the PHE for counties planning to implement the new linkage through BenefitsCal?

DHCS Response: *Jacey Cooper, DHCS*: I need to follow up after consulting with the team.

DHCS Follow-Up: BenefitsCal does not determine eligibility for benefits. Eligibility is maintained through the CalSAWS system. BenefitsCal is a portal to allow beneficiaries to update their contact information, report changes, upload documents, and check on the status of their case. Because eligibility is maintained through CalSAWS, the beneficiaries will remain in the COVID-19 PHE protections that CalSAWS currently provides.

Additionally, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra [renewed](#) the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), effective January 16. If this renewal remains in place for a full 90-day period it should expire on April 16. California will continue to maintain continuous coverage of Medi-Cal beneficiaries as required by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act during the PHE.

DHCS Initiatives Crosswalk

3. *Chris Stoner-Mertz, California Alliance of Child and Family Services:* Is there a timeframe for rolling out the CPT codes?

DHCS Response: *Jacey Cooper, DHCS:* There is a CPT code crosswalk developed, and we will follow up to make that available.

DHCS Follow-Up: DHCS anticipates release of the payment reform CPT crosswalk in March 2022.

SOGI Data Collection/Compliance with AB 959

4. *Kim Lewis, National Health Law Program:* Is there any collection of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data available from applications? I know this is a challenging area.

DHCS Response: *Rene Mollow, DHCS:* On SOGI data collection, the information has been very inconsistent. I don't know that we have much to report out, but I will take it back because we do recognize the importance of being able to report out on it.

DHCS Follow-Up: DHCS is continuing to refine SOGI data.