



SUMMARY OF MEETING
Substance Use Disorder Drug MediCal
Waiver Advisory Group (WAG)
Department of Health Care Services
March 23, 2015

Overview

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is seeking an 1115 Demonstration Waiver for the Substance Use Disorder Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Program. The overall purpose of the Waiver is to create a model that will provide an Organized Delivery System of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services. This Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver will be an amendment to California's existing section 1115 "Bridge to Reform" Waiver.

Waiver Submission Update

DHCS formally submitted the Waiver amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 21, 2014. DHCS has provided clarifications and responded to questions received from CMS. On receiving formal approval from CMS, DHCS will inform the Stakeholders and start Phase One of the Waiver Implementation.

Draft State/County Contract

DHCS explained that the draft State/County Contract is color coded to differentiate the standard boiler language (in black font), lift and shift of language from Mental Health (MH) State/County contract (in blue font), Part 438 of the Code of Federal Regulations (in green font), and draft language from the Special Terms and Conditions (in purple font). It is available on the DHCS website.

Clarification was requested on the rate setting structure for Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) services in the STC's. DHCS stated that the Department is working with the California Opioid Maintenance Providers (COMP) and County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) to finalize the draft language.

Stakeholders questioned the use of the term 'beneficiary's physician' throughout the document in reference to residential facilities. DHCS responded that this language will be corrected since physician services are not currently permitted in residential facilities.

With regard to network adequacy capacity, DHCS stated that the State needs to have more internal discussions in order to provide further clarification on how the State will evaluate capacity.

It was pointed out that the language on page 37 related to the 24-hour toll-free telephone number does not clearly state whether there is a 24-hour requirement. DHCS clarified that the 24 hour requirement is applicable and the contract language will be updated.

Stakeholders requested clarification regarding the implementation of the Quality Improvement program. DHCS will allow participating counties the flexibility to utilize the existing Quality Assurance structure if already established for Mental Health services. DHCS also discussed that the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) requirement will be rolled out along with the implementation phases if approved by CMS.

Next Steps

On receiving the approval from CMS, the DMC-ODS Implementation effort will move from the Planning phase to the Implementation phase. The next WAG meeting will occur after the implementation of the Phase 1 and before Phase 2.

DHCS is hosting a conference in Garden Grove, CA on October 26-27, 2015, titled “Organizing California’s SUD Delivery System”. The primary focus of the conference will be the implementation of the DMC-ODS.

WAG agendas and handouts are available at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/MH-SUD-UpcomingMeetings.aspx>

All stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to: MHSUDStakeholderInput@dhcs.ca.gov