



**California  
Behavioral Health  
Planning Council**

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

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**MS 2706**

March 18, 2025

Paula Wilhelm, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health  
California Department of Health Care Services  
P.O. Box 997413  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

RE: DRAFT BHIN 25-XXX Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of  
Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

Dear Paula,

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (Council) strives to promote cross-system collaboration to address the issues of access and effective treatment for the recovery, resilience, and wellness of Californians living with severe mental illness.

The Council supports changes in the updated Information Notice as the updated policy lowers barriers to care for Medi-Cal members. Regarding the section entitled, "*Transition of Care Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services*," on Page 11 of the draft Information Notice, the Council inquires if data on the use of the Transition of Care Tool at the statewide and county levels have been released for the first year of implementation. This data may help evaluate whether transitions between care are happening effectively between the Behavioral Health Plans (BHPs) and Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and whether the transitions have occurred both ways (referrals from Managed Care Plans to county Behavioral Health Plans and vice versa). If such data exists, the Council kindly requests the Department of Health Care Services provide stakeholders access to that information.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Behavioral Health Information Notice for Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services. The Council will continue to



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track and provide input on the implementation of CalAIM Behavioral Health Initiatives.

For questions about our recommendations, please contact Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer, at [Jenny.Bayardo@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Jenny.Bayardo@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 750-3778.

Sincerely,

Tony Vartan  
Chairperson

CC: Erika Cristo, Assistant Deputy Director, Behavioral Health, DHCS