



Stakeholder Communication Update

October 2020

The [Department of Health Care Services](#) (DHCS) is pleased to share this bimonthly update of important events and actions at the Department. If you are not a subscriber and would like to receive these updates, please sign up on the DHCS [website](#). Check out the [Calendar of Events](#) for specific meetings and events, or visit the [Stakeholder Engagement Directory](#) for listings by program. You also can view our [State Plan Amendments \(SPA\)](#), and find the most [recent data](#) on Medi-Cal enrollment. For questions or suggestions, contact us at DHCSPress@dhcs.ca.gov. Be sure to follow DHCS on social media, too. Thanks.



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Department Updates

DHCS Executive Staff Changes

Brenda Grealish, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division (MCBHD) Chief, left the Department effective September 30. Grealish was appointed as Executive Officer for the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health. Marlies Perez, Community Services Division Chief, will also serve as Interim Chief for MCBHD. DHCS is actively recruiting for a new MCBHD Chief. Please share this [link](#) widely through your networks.

Evelyn Schaeffer, Integrated Systems of Care Division (ISCD) Chief, left the Department effective September 23. Autumn Boylan, Assistant Deputy Director for Health Care Delivery Systems, will also serve as Acting Division Chief for ISCD. DHCS is actively recruiting for a new ISCD Chief. Please share this [link](#) widely through your networks.

Adam Weintraub, Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Communications (OC), will be leaving DHCS on October 7. Please contact Norman Williams, Deputy Director, for all OC issues upon Weintraub's departure until further notice.

COVID-19 Update

On October 2, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) renewed the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) for a full 90-day extension through January 21, 2021. The formal PHE declaration was posted on the HHS [website](#).

Effective August 28, DHCS implemented the COVID-19 Uninsured Group program, which covers free COVID-19 diagnostic testing, testing-related services, and treatment services, including hospitalization and all medically necessary care. This program replaces Presumptive Eligibility for COVID-19, and is available to uninsured individuals determined

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eligible by a qualified provider based on preliminary applicant information. Enrollment into this program begins on the date of application and lasts for up to 12 months or the end of the public health emergency, whichever comes first. For more information, visit the [DHCS website](#).

On August 19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [approved](#) additional Section 1135 waiver flexibilities related to telehealth services, retroactive to March 1, 2020, through the duration of the public health emergency.

CMS also issued additional blanket waivers that affect providers nationwide, including additional flexibilities for telehealth services, and waiving certain requirements for Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers. The waiver or modification of these provisions did not require individual approval; the full list of blanket waivers is posted on CMS' [website](#).

On August 20, CMS approved California State Plan Amendment ([SPA 20-0025](#)), retroactive to March 1, 2020, regarding disaster relief. The SPA modifies the rehabilitative services benefit, allowing Medi-Cal State Plan and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System providers to provide rehabilitative services in alternate locations as recognized by DHCS. The SPA also allows Medi-Cal to cover the administering and processing of COVID-19 laboratory and diagnostic tests in certain non-office settings, such as mobile testing sites, parking lots, and other temporary outdoor locations, to minimize the transmission of COVID-19.

On September 17, CMS [approved](#) California's request for an emergency Appendix K amendment to modify waiver enrollment prioritization for two of the state's 1915(c) HCBS waivers – the Home & Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) waiver and the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW). Under the authority of Appendix K, DHCS will have the flexibility to prioritize all institutional transition enrollments into the HCBA waiver and the ALW in areas of the state identified as COVID-19 "hot spots." The DHCS Director designates "hot spots" based upon weekly information/data received from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. This flexibility was initially developed in response to the recent surge of COVID-19 positive cases in the following Central Valley counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare. The flexibility is intended to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the health care infrastructure in areas of the state with the highest rates of infection. Additional information can be found [here](#).

The Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals (OAHA) will conduct informal reviews, pre-hearing matters, settlement conferences, formal hearings, and other matters via telephone or video conference, while Executive Orders [N-55-20](#) and [N-63-20](#) are in effect. DHCS recently issued [guidance](#) on timeframe extensions and data submittal deadlines for audits, and updates to administrative hearing timelines and processes. For questions regarding this guidance, please email OAHAMailbox@dhcs.ca.gov.

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Additional COVID-19 updates will be posted on the [DHCS COVID-19 resource page](#).

Medi-Cal 2020 1115 Waiver Update

On October 1, 2020, CMS [determined that the DHCS application](#) to extend the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 waiver for twelve months, until December 31, 2021, met the requirements for a complete application. The state's extension request was [posted](#) on the Medicaid.gov website for a 30-day federal public comment period. DHCS will continue to work with CMS on the 1115 and 1915(b) waiver extension requests, and to develop applications for new waivers that would become effective on January 1, 2022.

Program Updates

Aged, Blind, and Disabled Federal Poverty Level (ABD FPL) Program Expansion

On September 2, 2020, DHCS submitted a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to CMS seeking approval of the ABD FPL program expansion, which will increase the program income limit from 100 percent to 138 percent of the FPL. Implementation of this benefit is expected to occur on December 1, 2020. DHCS has begun outreach efforts to inform Medi-Cal beneficiaries who could be affected of the changes to the ABD FPL program. DHCS is mailing letters to beneficiaries in October that explain the program expansion and include frequently asked questions. Implementation of this program will result in an estimated 40,000 previously ineligible aged, blind, and disabled individuals becoming eligible for the ABD FPL program. Currently enrolled Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are newly eligible under the expansion will be automatically transitioned and notified of the change. DHCS will continue to provide updates on the implementation through the [DHCS Consumer Focused Stakeholder Workgroup](#).

Breast Cancer Awareness Month - Every Woman Counts (EWC) Program

DHCS believes it is important, even during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to ensure Medi-Cal beneficiaries have access to medically necessary preventive services, including cancer screenings. DHCS' EWC program provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings and follow-up services to eligible individuals, and is promoting the services as part of its observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As women get older, the chance of getting breast and/or cervical cancer increases. Therefore, women should continue to be screened regularly and at the recommended intervals. Men can also get breast cancer and should be screened according to recommendations from their health care provider. Eligible individuals can use the provider locator portal on the [DHCS website](#) or call (800) 511-2300 to find a EWC provider.

California Children's Services (CCS) Service Authorization Request (SAR) Process

On September 1, 2020, DHCS updated its internal communication process related to SARs, creating three new email inboxes to reduce confusion related to the submission of inquiries to DHCS from county CCS offices:

- CCSPhysicianReview@dhcs.ca.gov (RightFax (916) 440-5308), to be used exclusively for SAR requests for transplants (including chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy CAR-T drugs), cochlear implants, and out-of-state requests.
- CCSExpeditedReview@dhcs.ca.gov (RightFax (916) 440-5306) for SAR requests related to bleeding disorders, specialty drugs, hospital discharges, and upcoming surgery.
- CCSDirectedReview@dhcs.ca.gov (RightFax (916) 440-5768), for other SARs from dependent counties that require DHCS review, including SARs for diabetic supplies, durable medical equipment, genetic testing, off-label or investigational services, and reconsiderations of previous decisions.

For additional information, please visit the DHCS [website](#).

Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI)

As of September 5, 2020, 2,999 Medi-Cal dental providers have opted to participate in Domain 2. DHCS has continued bimonthly teleconferences with all Local Dental Pilot Programs (LDPPs) to educate, support, provide technical assistance, and share best practices and lessons learned. The next Domain 4 teleconference is scheduled for October 15, 2020. Fact sheets for all DTI domains are posted on the DHCS [website](#).

Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Update

The first regional DMC-ODS model in California began operating July 1, 2020, bringing the total number of counties participating in the DMC-ODS to 37. The regional model is a collaboration among seven Northern California counties and Partnership HealthPlan. The 37 counties represent more than 90 percent of the Medi-Cal population. The DMC-ODS provides a continuum of care modeled after the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for substance use disorder treatment services. ASAM designations continue to be processed for licensed residential alcohol and other drug program providers. DHCS has issued 936 designations to alcohol and drug treatment providers in California. Of these providers, 661 are actively providing DMC-ODS services. More information about DMC-ODS is posted on the DHCS [website](#). Additionally, DHCS contracts with an External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) that reviews DMC-ODS counties annually regarding access, timely access, and quality of care. The information from these reviews is summarized in annual county reports. In fiscal year (FY) 2019-20, 25 DMC-ODS counties were reviewed; the individual reports can be found at <https://www.caleqro.com/dmc-eqro>.

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Managed Care Plan (MCP) Procurement

On September 1, 2020, DHCS released a Request for Information (RFI) [20-001](#) to seek input from interested parties on DHCS' proposed changes to managed care plan contracts. DHCS hosted a public webinar on September 10, 2020. Feedback was due by October 1, 2020, and is currently being reviewed and assessed. Additional information, including the webinar slide deck, is available on the DHCS [website](#).

Medi-Cal Health Enrollment Navigators Project

DHCS is expanding and extending efforts to enroll hard-to-reach people in Medi-Cal. Effective July 1, 2019, Assembly Bill (AB) 74 (Chapter 23, Statutes of 2019) appropriated \$59.7 million for DHCS to partner with counties and/or community-based organizations (CBOs) for Medi-Cal outreach, enrollment, retention, and navigation services for hard-to-reach Medi-Cal and potentially eligible Medi-Cal populations. Due to the community health impacts of COVID-19, navigator services are now critically important. Project partners have implemented innovative and creative approaches to contact and enroll the eligible hard-to-reach populations in their local communities. In September, DHCS awarded funding to three additional CBOs (serving three counties), received proposals to amend agreements for new and/or augmented activities, and revised costs for prior participants. As of October 2020, DHCS is partnering with 34 counties and 10 CBOs (serving 20 counties) to provide Navigators Project services within those 54 counties. DHCS is working to distribute all remaining funds to current awardees and prospective CBOs by December 2020. All information and updates related to the Medi-Cal Health Enrollment Navigators Project are found on the DHCS [website](#).

Medi-Cal Rx Implementation and Project Status Updates

DHCS continues to make significant progress toward a successful transition of pharmacy services to Medi-Cal Rx on January 1, 2021. To help facilitate a smooth and effective transition for Medi-Cal providers, beneficiaries, and other interested parties, DHCS is deploying a robust and multi-faceted outreach campaign, which includes:

- Comprehensive beneficiary notices that were mailed beginning on or about October 1, and continuing approximately every 30 days until go-live.
- Conducting targeted provider outreach.
- Providing training opportunities starting in October and continuing through the end of 2020.
- Providing interim call center support through DHCS' existing Medi-Cal fee-for-service Fiscal Intermediary leading up to January 1, 2021, and staffing a 24/7/365 call center after January 1, 2021.
- Developing a wide range of public-facing materials and documents hosted on the DHCS website.
- Developing a dedicated Medi-Cal Rx website with secure portal components for Medi-Cal providers, health plans, beneficiaries, and other interested parties.

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DHCS also launched the Medi-Cal Rx secure [web portal](#) and the [registration page](#) for Medi-Cal provider access within the non-secure portion of the portal targeting, but not limited to, physician prescribers and pharmacies. This registration is the first step in the process toward full utilization of the Medi-Cal Rx secure web portal and the tools needed for the delivery and management of consumer services. For detailed registration and training instructions, access the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal and Training Registration article located on the [Pharmacy News Page](#).

Access to the Medi-Cal Rx secure web portal will include key functions, such as web claims submission, activities, and inquiries; beneficiary eligibility look up; and prior authorization (PA) information and submission. Other functions within the web portal include the Learning Management System (LMS), message center, provider survey, password management, and secure chat.

DHCS reminds Medi-Cal providers, health plans, counties, beneficiaries, and other interested parties that it is important to complete registration early so user training and functionalities are complete and active by January 1, 2021. This will help to remove or mitigate any potential challenges and impediments for successful and effective use of the Medi-Cal Rx web portal.

The Medi-Cal Rx website will be fully operational by January 1, 2021. In the meantime, DHCS encourages Medi-Cal providers, health plans, counties, beneficiaries, and other interested parties to sign up for the [Medi-Cal Rx subscription service](#) to receive Medi-Cal Rx updates by email.

For general project questions or comments, visit the DHCS [website](#) or email RxCarveOut@dhcs.ca.gov. In addition, DHCS encourages stakeholders to review the Medi-Cal Rx [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#), which is being updated as the project advances.

Medicare Part B Buy-In Disregard – AB 1088

Subject to federal approval, AB 1088 (Chapter 450, Statutes of 2019) will allow an aged, blind, or disabled individual who becomes ineligible for the Medi-Cal ABD FPL program because of the state's payment of the individual's Medicare Part B premium to remain eligible for the program if their income and resources otherwise meet all eligibility requirements. DHCS is seeking federal approval via a SPA, which was submitted to CMS on February 14, 2020. Implementation of this benefit is expected to occur on December 1, 2020. In November, information regarding this new income disregard will be included in beneficiary outreach materials that will be mailed to beneficiaries who are potentially impacted by the ABL FPL expansion. DHCS will continue to provide updates on AB 1088 via the [DHCS Consumer Focused Stakeholder Workgroup](#).

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Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project Update

On August 27, 2020, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded a State Opioid Response (SOR) 2 grant to DHCS to increase and expand opioid use disorder and stimulant use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support services statewide. SAMHSA allocated a total of \$211,729,156, augmenting the state's initial allocation by \$89,694, which will be added to the Naloxone Distribution Project. SAMHSA also modified the performance period of the grant from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2022, to September 30, 2020 through September 29, 2022.

The California Hub and Spoke System (H&SS), a critical program within the MAT Expansion Project, will receive continued funding through the SOR 2 grant. DHCS selected Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) to serve as the administrative entity to oversee all Hubs and Spokes participating in SOR 2. DHCS, AHP, and the project evaluator, the University of California Los Angeles, reviewed prior performance of each H&SS and selected the top performing Hubs and Spokes to receive funding totaling approximately \$56 million. Services for the SOR 2 funding period began on September 30, 2020. For more information about the MAT Expansion Project, visit www.CaliforniaMAT.org.

Nonmedical Transportation (NMT)

As of September 8, 2020, DHCS had received 413 applications from transportation companies requesting to enroll as NMT providers in fee-for-service (FFS) Medi-Cal. Of the total, DHCS has approved 70 applications. A list of the approved NMT providers is posted on the DHCS [website](#), and is updated monthly as additional providers are approved. DHCS will continue to assist FFS Medi-Cal beneficiaries with NMT requests if there is no approved NMT provider in their area. Beneficiaries or their designees may email DHCS-Benefits@dhcs.ca.gov to request transportation assistance. Requests should be sent at least five business days in advance of the appointment if their provider is unable to arrange NMT or if they have exhausted all other transportation options. Beneficiaries should not include personal information in their first email; DHCS staff will reply with a secure email asking for their appointment information.

MCP Enrollment Enhancement

The Medi-Cal Health Care Options (HCO) contractor has enhanced the existing California HCO Customer Service Portal (CSP) [website](#). The change allows beneficiaries living in counties where more than one MCP operates to choose a MCP through the CSP website. The online enrollment interface, available in English and Spanish, can capture beneficiary MCP choice, as well as their preferred providers. This enhancement provides beneficiaries with an additional enrollment channel, in addition to telephone enrollment, via mail by filling out paper choice forms, or in person at HCO-designated sites.

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Preventive Care Outreach Project for Children in Medi-Cal

Access and utilization of preventive services is a high priority for DHCS, and the Department has resumed outreach activities to encourage preventive services for children. The effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in a shift in focus of the targeted call campaign, which originally was intended to inform beneficiaries about the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services. The outbound call campaign by Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) as part of the Phase 1 efforts to promote EPSDT services resumed on August 3, 2020. In an effort to assist MCPs with additional options and additional time for the outreach campaign, DHCS released revised outreach guidelines and new parameters, including additional ways MCPs can reach families with children to meet the requirements. As a result of these new parameters, MCPs have until December 31, 2020, to complete the first round of outreach to beneficiaries 0-3 years old and until March 31, 2021, for the second round of outreach to beneficiaries 3-6 years old. Phase 2 of the outreach project commenced in mid-September with interviewing stakeholders on existing preventive care outreach methods. Phase 2 activities will also include surveying MCPs and beneficiaries, involving stakeholders to design new outreach materials, and creating new approaches to reach this population. Phase 2 activities are scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2021.

Provisional Postpartum Care Extension

Senate Bill (SB) 104 (Chapter 67, Statutes of 2019) authorized DHCS to implement the Provisional Postpartum Care Extension, which extends Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal Access Program coverage for an additional ten months for pregnant or postpartum individuals who have been diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition during their pregnancy, postpartum period, or 90-day cure period. DHCS has prepared an informational flyer for distribution to beneficiaries, conducted stakeholder workgroups with advocates and counties, and released an All County Welfare Director's Letter ([ACWDL #20-14](#)) to provide counties guidance for eligible beneficiaries. The Provisional Postpartum Care Extension was implemented on August 1, 2020.

Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) and DMC-ODS Network Adequacy Update

On October 1, 2020, DHCS submitted to CMS the annual mental health plan (MHP) and DMC-ODS network certification for FY 2020-2021. DHCS reviewed data and documentation submitted by 56 MHPs and 30 DMC-ODS networks and determined that 13 MHPs met all network adequacy standards, with 43 MHPs and 30 DMC-ODS counties receiving a conditional pass. Counties that received a conditional pass, where a deficiency was identified for one or more of the network adequacy certification requirements, will be required to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Progress toward resolving a CAP will be monitored monthly, and counties must submit evidence that they have resolved their CAP by January 2 of each year. Any county that has not resolved its CAP may be subject to fines, withholdings, or sanctions.

For more information regarding network adequacy certification requirements, please see information notices [MHSUDS 18-011](#) and [BHIN 20-012](#).

Smile, California Campaign for Medi-Cal Dental Services

A new flyer available for download on the *Smile, California* [website](#) – “Medi-Cal Covers Dental for Former Foster Youth” – was developed to increase awareness about available dental services for this Medi-Cal population. Additionally, new questions and answers were added to the Common Questions page on the *Smile, California* website, along with easy to locate information about coverage and benefits.

Smile, California continues to promote COVID-19 messaging with members and partners, including sharing a “What You Should Expect at Your Next Dental Visit” [flyer](#) and [video](#). *Smile, California* also partnered with the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center to develop the [Oral Health Education Resources page](#). This page serves as a hub for a wide array of oral health materials about the importance of good oral health and preventive dental care for all ages.

To sign up for Smile Alerts, please visit the *Smile, California* [website](#). Follow *Smile, California* on Instagram at @SmileOnCalifornia for the latest information and resources.

Stakeholder Meetings and Webinars

Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee (BH-SAC) Meeting

DHCS will hold the next BH-SAC meeting via webinar on October 28, 2020. Expected topics include updates on CalHOPE, Child Welfare Council recommendations for Behavioral Health, and how structural racism should be addressed in behavioral health delivery systems. The meeting will also include an annual behavioral health forum, to include topics addressed by previous workgroups prior to their incorporation into the BH-SAC. The purpose of the BH-SAC is to advise DHCS about the behavioral health delivery system. This includes behavioral health, prevention, treatment, recovery services, and related waivers for mental health and substance use disorder services. To view meeting information and materials, please visit the DHCS [website](#).

California Children’s Services (CCS) Advisory Group (AG) Meeting

On October 7, 2020, DHCS Director Will Lightbourne will lead the next CCS AG virtual meeting. Agenda topics for this virtual meeting include the CCS Demonstration Pilot Interim Evaluation findings, Medi-Cal Rx implementation update, Medical Therapy Program Step Two guidance, Whole Child Model Referrals, Services Authorization Request processing, and other brief updates. To view CCS AG meeting agendas, presentations, webinar information, and meeting materials, please visit the DHCS [website](#).

Foster Care Model of Care Workgroup

On October 16, 2020, DHCS is scheduled to hold the next Foster Care Model of Care Workgroup meeting via webinar. The agenda outlining all topics for discussion will be posted to the DHCS [website](#) closer to the meeting date. The August 21, 2020, workgroup meeting included a discussion on the data that would be relevant to the intent and goals of the workgroup. Participants also learned about integrated managed care programs in Arizona and Washington, and brainstormed on the aspects of those models that could be applied in California. The County Welfare Directors Association of California and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California presented their “Joint Behavioral Health Vision for Child Welfare” paper, which outlines their joint proposal to establish automatic eligibility for specialty mental health services for children, youth, and families in child welfare, as well as a minimum, mandatory set of behavioral health services.

This workgroup is part of DHCS’ CalAIM initiative, and is hosted in partnership with the California Department of Social Services. Its purpose is to create a long-term plan for how children and youth in foster care receive health care services (physical health, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, social services, and oral health), and to serve as a venue for stakeholders to provide feedback on ways to improve the current system of care for children and youth in foster care. The workgroup also will determine if a new system of care should be developed and, if so, how it would be established.

Information on meeting dates is posted on the DHCS [website](#). For questions or comments about this workgroup, please email CalAIMFoster@dhcs.ca.gov.

Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Statewide Transition Plan (STP) Stakeholder Education/Training Webinars

DHCS, in partnership with Public Consulting Group (PCG), will host an HCBS Final Rule webinar in October to provide stakeholders with information about federal requirements. The webinar will be mandatory training for providers, although residents, representatives, and other interested parties are welcome to participate. This online interactive webinar will kick off the STP activities and include an overview of the CMS approval process, stakeholder input, and remediation.

Information about the meeting, registration, and the recorded webinar will be posted on the DHCS [website](#). For questions, please email HCBAalternatives@dhcs.ca.gov.

Home & Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver Renewal Technical Workgroup Meetings

DHCS recently solicited applications for membership to the HCBA waiver renewal technical workgroup. A series of workgroup meetings will be held from October 2020 through January 2021 to obtain stakeholder input on the HCBA waiver renewal. The HCBA waiver provides long-term, community-based services and supports to Medi-Cal-

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eligible beneficiaries in the community setting of their choice. These services include private duty nursing, case management, and personal care services necessary to maintain the health and safety of an individual with nursing level of care needs, in a community setting instead of an institution. Workgroup members will provide DHCS with feedback on the waiver and offer input on what works well, challenges, safeguarding participant health and safety, reinforcing participant choice, and improving access to waiver services.

DHCS will notify chosen participants by October 19, 2020. Workgroup membership will be limited in number to ensure a productive discussion environment, but there will be additional opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback to DHCS during the waiver renewal process. If you have questions about the HCBA waiver renewal or the technical workgroup, please email HCBAAlternatives@dhcs.ca.gov. For additional information, please visit the DHCS [website](#).

DHCS will notify chosen participants by October 19, 2020. Workgroup membership will be limited in number to ensure a productive discussion environment, but there will be additional opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback to DHCS during the waiver renewal process. If you have questions about the HCBA waiver renewal or the technical workgroup, please email HCBAAlternatives@dhcs.ca.gov. For additional information, please visit the DHCS [website](#).

Medi-Cal Children’s Health Advisory Panel (MCHAP) Meeting

The next MCHAP meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2020, via webinar. Expected topics include a discussion of telehealth observations and lessons, including best practices and challenges facing telehealth going forward, and updates on COVID-19 and Medi-Cal enrollment. The MCHAP is a 15-member independent statewide advisory body that advises DHCS on matters relevant to children enrolled in Medi-Cal. To view meeting information, materials, or historical documents, please visit the DHCS [website](#).

Medi-Cal Consumer Focused Stakeholder Workgroup (CFSW) Meeting

The next CFSW meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2020, from 10 a.m. to Noon, via conference call. The purpose of the CFSW is to provide stakeholders an opportunity to review and provide feedback on a variety of consumer messaging materials. The forum focuses on eligibility- and enrollment-related activities and strives to offer an open discussion on Medi-Cal policies and functionality. Additional stakeholder information is available on the DHCS [website](#).

Medi-Cal Dental Los Angeles Stakeholder Meeting

DHCS will host the next Medi-Cal Dental Los Angeles Stakeholder virtual meeting on November 5, 2020. Additional information will be available on the DHCS [website](#).

Medi-Cal Rx Advisory Workgroup Meeting

The next Medi-Cal Rx Advisory Workgroup meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2020, via webinar. On July 29, 2020, DHCS held, via webinar, the fourth of seven sessions of the Medi-Cal Rx Advisory Workgroup. These sessions are intended to help facilitate and further inform DHCS' ongoing efforts to implement pharmacy services improvements through the Medi-Cal Rx initiative. The workgroup is composed of organizations and entities such as hospitals, clinics, health plans, counties, pharmacies, tribal health programs, and consumer advocates. Information on how to join the next webinar will be provided on the DHCS [website](#).

Medi-Cal Rx Public Forums

The next Medi-Cal Rx public forum is scheduled for December 9, 2020, via webinar. On September 22, 2020, DHCS held a Medi-Cal Rx public forum via webinar, which covered topics including overall project implementation and operational readiness updates, upcoming outreach campaign components and strategies, other state department collaboration efforts, Medi-Cal Rx policy and process updates. The public forum concluded with a public comment and question and answer portion. These forums are intended to keep the broader stakeholder community apprised of Medi-Cal Rx implementation activities and timelines. Information on how to join the December webinar will be posted on the DHCS [website](#) as the meeting date approaches. For questions or comments related to Medi-Cal Rx, please email RxCarveOut@dhcs.ca.gov.

Senate Bill 75: School Based Health Care Stakeholder Workgroup

Under the authority of [Senate Bill 75](#) (Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019) the California Department of Education (CDE) and DHCS are working to improve the coordination and expansion of access to available federal funds through the Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, School-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities Program, and medically necessary EPSDT benefits. On October 1, 2020, DHCS submitted the Senate Bill 75 Medi-Cal for Students interim report to the Legislature and Department of Finance. The report outlines the challenges of school-based health care in California and discusses opportunities for further review for the final report, which is due on October 1, 2021. The interim report and additional information will be available on the [Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup website](#). For questions or comments, please email LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

DHCS will hold the next SAC meeting on October 28, 2020, via webinar. Expected topics include a Medi-Cal enrollment update and discussion, an overview of the MCP procurement process and timeline, and a discussion of how structural racism should be addressed in the health care delivery system. The purpose of the SAC is to provide DHCS with feedback on health care policy issues affecting the Department, including Section 1115 waiver implementation efforts. SAC members are recognized stakeholders/experts in their fields, including member advocacy organizations and representatives of various Medi-Cal provider groups. To view meeting information, materials, or historical documents, please visit the DHCS [website](#).

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