



## **NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST**

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

### **PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO EXPAND THE CONTINUUM OF COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES AVAILABLE THROUGH MEDI-CAL SPECIALTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS**

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 24-0042 by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). SPA 24-0042 proposes to:

1. Clarify that Rehabilitative Mental Health Services may address co-occurring substance use disorders (SUDs) as clinically appropriate and within the treating practitioner's scope of practice for beneficiaries who access these services to address their mental health conditions;
2. Clarify that SUD Treatment Services and Expanded SUD Treatment Services may address co-occurring mental health conditions as clinically appropriate and within the treating practitioner's scope of practice for beneficiaries who access these services to address their SUDs;
3. Clarify that Member and Beneficiary are terms used interchangeably to refer to a person who is eligible to receive Medi-Cal benefits;
4. Add Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC), and Clubhouse Services as Rehabilitative Mental Health Services;
5. Define Employment and Education Support Services as a service component of ACT, CSC, and Clubhouse Services;
6. Clarify the definitions of Rehabilitative Mental Health Medication Support Services and Psychosocial Rehabilitation;
7. Clarify the definitions of SUD Treatment and Expanded SUD Treatment Medication Services;
8. Add Alcohol and Drug Counselors as provider types under Rehabilitative Mental Health Services, Targeted Case Management Services, and Specialty Mental Health Mobile Crisis Services;
9. Add Other Qualified Providers as provider types under SUD Treatment Services, Expanded SUD Treatment Services, and Drug Medi-Cal/Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Mobile Crisis Services;

10. Define bundled reimbursement rate methodologies for ACT, CSC, Clubhouse Services, and Multisystemic Therapy (MST).

Through this SPA, Medi-Cal specialty behavioral health delivery systems will have the option to implement the following services as Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS):

- **ACT** is a community-based, team-based service to help members cope with the symptoms of their mental health condition and develop or restore skills to function in the community.
- **CSC** is a community-based, team-based service to help members cope with the symptoms of their initial psychotic episode(s) and remain integrated in the community.
- **Clubhouse Services** help members develop or restore their self-efficacy, self-care, social skills, and independent living skills.
- To be eligible for SMHS, members must meet the access criteria defined in Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) [21-073](#).

The purpose of this SPA is to seek federal approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand the continuum of community-based services and evidence-based practices available through the Medi-Cal specialty behavioral health delivery systems. These changes support the objectives of DHCS' California Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) initiative. More information about BH-CONNECT can be found at <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CalAIM/Pages/BH-CONNECT.aspx>.

DHCS requests input from members, Medi-Cal specialty behavioral health delivery systems, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning proposed SPA 24-0042.

DHCS anticipates that the total federal cost associated with these changes would be \$0 for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024-2025 and \$0 for FFY 2025-2026.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is January 1, 2025. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

## Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 24-0042 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2024.aspx>.

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 24-0042 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 24-0042 by submitting a request in writing to the mailing or email address listed below. Please identify SPA 24-0042 in the subject line or message making this request.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services  
Medi-Cal Behavioral Health – Policy Division  
ATTN: Ivan Bhardwaj  
MS 2702  
P.O. Box 997413  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Comments may also be emailed to [PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate SPA 24-0042 in the subject line or message including the comments.

To be assured DHCS considers the comments prior to submission of the SPA to CMS, comments must be received no later than September 28, 2024. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after September 28, 2024, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of SPA 24-0042 to CMS.