

X INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 1

___ ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 6/19/13

PREPARED BY: Wendy Desormeaux DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 5/21/13

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation on Affordable Care Act

ENCLOSURES: • NA

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: Materials will be distributed at the meeting.

Issue:

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. Today's presentation from The California Coalition for Whole Health and MHSOAC Vice Chair Pating is designed to assist the Service Committee in the understanding the implementation of this law, and the subsequent policy changes the reform will have on mental health and substance abuse services.

Background:

Broadly, the goals of the ACA can be broken down into four categories:

- 1) Expands coverage in public programs. The law expands Medi-Cal coverage to low-income adults and children.
- 2) Simplifies and streamlines eligibility and enrollment. States must provide a means by which people can quickly learn if they are eligible for state-funded programs or subsidized private health plans, apply, and enroll.
- 3) Protects health insurance consumers. The law prohibits insurance companies for denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions or from placing lifetime limits on coverage, and assures that products sold meet standards for comprehensiveness.
- 4) Creates a new marketplace for private health insurance. California's Health Benefit Exchange will be designed to make shopping for health insurance easier, make the costs and benefits of plans more understandable, and administer subsidies to qualifying applicants.

Along with the California administration and legislature state leads for implementing the law are:

- The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- The California Department of Insurance (CDI)
- The California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC)
- The California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS)
- The California Health Benefit Exchange (CHBE, the Exchanges and Covered California)
- The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB)

