

AGENDA ITEM: Overview: Federal Healthcare Reform; Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver; Federal Mental Health Parity Law

- ENCLOSURES:**
- Focus on Health Reform: Summary of New Health Reform Law, Kaiser Family Foundation
 - Affordable Health Care for America: Implementation Timeline
 - Affordable Health Care for America: Key Provisions that Take Effect Immediately
 - Fact Sheet from Families USA: Maintenance of Effort Requirements under Health Reform
 - Mental Health America: The New Health Care Reform Law: A Summary of Provisions of Interest to Mental Health Advocates
 - State of California’s Concept for a Comprehensive Section 1115 Waiver to Replace the Current Medi-cal Hospital/Uninsured Care Demonstration Project, December 16, 2009
 - National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare: Top-Line Summary of the Interim Final Rule on Implementing the Wellstone-Domenici Parity Law
 - National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare: Parity for Mental Health and Addictions
 - Implications/Impact of Healthcare Reform and Parity for Behavioral Health PowerPoint Presentation

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:

ISSUE

Three significant initiatives, the Federal Healthcare Reform, the Medi-Cal 1115 waiver, and the Federal Mental Health Parity law will have an effect on behavioral healthcare in California. Tim Smith, Health Policy Program Manager, Government Affairs, LA Care, will provide an introduction and brief overview of the Federal Healthcare Reform. Sandra Naylor Goodwin, Executive Director, California Institute for Mental Health, and Alan Edwards, Medical Director, Orange County Behavioral Health, will provide an overview of the implications and impact of healthcare reform and parity for behavioral health.

Federal Healthcare Reform

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed comprehensive health reform, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, into law. This reform focuses on provisions to expand coverage, control health care costs, and improve the health care delivery system. The enclosed documents provide an overview of this new law:

- Focus on Health Reform: Summary of New Health Reform Law, Kaiser Family Foundation
- Affordable Health Care for America: Implementation Timeline
- Affordable Health Care for America: Key Provisions that Take Effect Immediately

X INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 2

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DATE OF MEETING: 4/29/10

PREPARED BY: Whitcomb

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 4/21/10

Federal Healthcare Reform (continued)

- Fact Sheet from Families USA: Maintenance of Effort Requirements under Health Reform
- Mental Health America: The New Health Care Reform Law: A Summary of Provisions of Interest to Mental Health Advocates

Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver

The enclosed document, State of California's Concept for a Comprehensive Section 1115 Waiver to Replace the Current Medi-cal Hospital/Uninsured Care Demonstration Project, December 16, 2009, describes a proposal for a new Section 1115 Medi-Cal waiver for California. The waiver aims to create more accountable coordinated systems of care, strengthen the health care safety net, reward health care quality and improve outcomes, slow the long-term expenditure growth rate of Medi-Cal, and expand coverage to uninsured Californians.

Mental Health Parity

On January 29, 2010, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor released an interim final rule (IFR) providing guidance on how the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act must be implemented. The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) of 2008, requires health insurers to offer mental health benefits equal in cost and scope to medical and surgical benefits. It will prevent insurers from requiring larger copayments or imposing lower reimbursement ceilings for mental health and addiction conditions.

The enclosed fact sheets provide a summary of the IFR and an overview of the MHPAEA.

- National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare: Top-Line Summary of the Interim Final Rule on Implementing the Wellstone-Domenici Parity Law
- National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare: Parity for Mental Health and Addictions