

CDCAN DISABILITY RIGHTS REPORT

CALIFORNIA DISABILITY COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK



#110-2010 – JUNE 10, 2010 – THURSDAY NIGHT

Advocacy Without Borders: One Community – Accountability With Action - California Disability Community Action Network Disability Rights News goes out to over 55,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors, traumatic brain & other injuries, veterans with disabilities and mental health needs, their families, workers, community organizations, including those in Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, African American communities, policy makers and others across California.

To reply to this report write: **MARTY OMOTO** at martyomoto@rcjp.com WEBSITE: www.cdcan.us TWITTER: www.twitter.com - 'MartyOmoto

REMEMBERING BILL YOUNG, DISABILITY AND SENIOR ADVOCATE WHO PASSED AWAY A YEAR AGO ON MAY 30, 2009 – HE HAD A "HEART OF A HERO" AND WE MISS HIM

California Budget Crisis:

Schwarzenegger Administration Submits Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver Proposal to Federal Government Major Impact to People with Disabilities, Mental Health Needs, the Blind, Seniors – Issue Was Approved Last Year As Part of the 2009-2010 State Budget – But Issue Is Being Reviewed by Legislature To Address Concerns

SACRAMENTO, CALIF (CDCAN) [Updated 06/10/2010 08:35 PM (Pacific Time)] - The Schwarzenegger Administration released today a 4 page letter and 71 page comprehensive Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Project Waiver proposal, titled "A Bridge to Reform" that it submitted last week (June 4th) to the federal government for approval. Approval from the federal government could take several months.

The proposed waiver seeks to renew and significantly expand the existing Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver that is due to expire August 2010, will have, as proposed, sweeping impact on thousands of people with disabilities, mental health needs, the blind and seniors in the Medi-Cal program. *[CDCAN Note; because of the extraordinary impact that the proposed Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver could have on people with disabilities, mental health needs, the blind, seniors and their families, attached to this report is the 71 page pdf file official proposal to the federal government, and the 4 page pdf (scanned) letter. Apologies for the large size of the attachments. Both documents – and an interim report on the Health Care Coverage Initiative from UCLA can also be viewed and downloaded from the CDCAN website at www.cdcan.us CDCAN will also be, pending funding, scheduling a statewide townhall telemeeting on this issue for people to better understand what is happening, and to ask questions]*

The Schwarzenegger Administration's proposal cites the need for this major change in the delivery of health care through the Medi-Cal program with California's "...struggle with multi-billion budget deficits, it is critical for the Medi-Cal program to continue implementing innovative programmatic changes in order to reduce its long-term cost growth trends," and contends that "...no state is a better laboratory in which to learn as it and the nation move towards implementing the full vision for health care reform." The

Schwarzenegger Administration says that the proposed waiver would increase quality of care and oversight.

The proposed waiver was one of the many proposals enacted as part of the 2009-2010 State Budget (as revised) in July 2009 that was meant to contain program costs and reduce spending.

The issue of the Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver proposal has raised major concerns and controversy among advocates for people with disabilities, mental health needs, the blind and seniors regarding some parts of the proposal.

The Department of Health Care Services – the state agency that oversees California’s Medicaid program (called “Medi-Cal”) has been praised for its outreach efforts and public meetings dealing with proposed waiver – though advocates are still critical of several major parts of the proposal.

What Happens Next

- The waiver proposal has to be approved by the federal government.
- The Governor proposed last year renewing and dramatically expanding the scope of the Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver for California, and the Legislature, as part of the 2009-2010 State Budget, approved it.
- The issue has come up during the recent budget subcommittee hearings, with concerns raised by advocates – and in response, both the Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees agreed that the policy concerns should be reviewed and addressed in the legislative policy committees.
- So while the Legislature did give approval last year for the Schwarzenegger Administration to move forward and to submit a Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver proposal, the proposal will be reviewed by policy committees. It is not clear however what action the policy committees or the Legislature as a whole will take – or if any changes would be part of the 2010-2011 State Budget process.
- *CDCAN Note: Persons concerned about this proposed Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver proposal should contact their own legislators to explain it and its impact.*

What the Proposal Includes

- The 71 page proposal presents the key elements of California’s waiver proposal including:
- A discussion of the current status and evaluation of the progress to date of the existing Health Care Coverage Initiative (HCCI) as well as the proposed expansion of that program;
- A discussion of the proposed continuation and enhancement of the safety net care pool (SNCP);
- A discussion of the proposed service delivery infrastructure improvements;
- A discussion of the proposed service delivery systems to improve health outcomes for certain vulnerable populations;
- A narrative on budget neutrality;
- A budget neutrality showing;

- A list of the waivers proposed to support this entire project;
- A summary of the state's stakeholder process; and
- An evaluation of the California's current Section 1115 Hospital Financing Waiver.

Six Goals Identified in Proposal

In the 71 page proposal, the Schwarzenegger Administration wrote that "*California seeks to accomplish six critical goals:*

- 1. To immediately begin phasing in coverage for the "newly eligible" adults aged 19-64 with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. This coverage will be required for all states effective 2014 and California plans to build on its current county-based coverage initiative so that in 2014, this population can become fully enrolled statewide and receive the federally required benchmark benefit package.*
- 2. To immediately begin phasing in coverage for adults with incomes between 133 and 200% of poverty. The State seeks to build on its county coverage initiative to offer benefits to this population, which may be covered through a basic health plan or health insurance exchange beginning in 2014.*
- 3. To create more accountable, coordinated systems of care with a focus initially on Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPDs) and Dual Eligibles. In years 2 and 3 of the waiver, the State would propose further amendments to include new service delivery system approaches for People with Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse challenges who need Integrated Care and Children with Special Health Care needs as well as to advance a project for the Dual Eligibles under the integrated care models envisioned by the new health care reform legislation.*
- 4. To continue and expand the safety net care pool (SNCP) that is encompassed in the State's existing waiver so that it may continue to assure support for its safety net hospitals and other critical programs which are paid for through the SNCP.*
- 5. To implement a series of improvements to the existing service delivery systems that will strengthen the infrastructure, prepare the State for full implementation of reform, and test strategies to slow the rate of growth in health care costs throughout the State.*
- 6. To pilot payment reforms within the public hospital system that better align payment and care delivery incentives. These approaches will help stabilize the public safety net systems, and will provide the flexibility necessary to ensure that they are able to continue California Section 1115 Comprehensive Demonstration Project Waiver Proposal providing care to Medi-Cal beneficiaries that transition to managed care and the newly covered populations as health reform is implemented."*

Background

- California's current Section 1115 Hospital Financing Waiver will expire on August 31, 2010.
- Under the current Section 1115 waiver, California has provided partial reimbursement to 21 critical public hospitals for services to the uninsured, that the Schwarzenegger Administration says has strengthened "*...the safety net and supporting growth in the safety net infrastructure; supported critical State programs for vulnerable populations, programs that were essential to the State's infrastructure but that were in danger of dying without federal contribution; and initiated a county*

coverage initiative in ten of the State's largest counties. Greater payment flexibility afforded by the current waiver with respect to disproportionate share hospital payment distributions to public hospitals and Selective Provider Contracting and supplemental payments to private safety net hospitals and non-designated public hospitals enabled California to strengthen and build upon the local health care safety net systems. The same flexibility will be a component of this new waiver."

CDCAN'S ACCOUNTABILITY WITH ACTION TRAINING

JUNE 14, 2010 – MONDAY 1:00 to 3:15 PM

IN SACRAMENTO - SPACES LIMITED

IN MEMORY TO LIFE AND WORK OF BILL YOUNG, JOAN LEE AND CHRISTINA KEIFER

THIS IS A HANDS ON TRAINING OF A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO ADVOCACY

IF INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THIS FREE TRAINING

PLEASE SEND RSVP TO MARTY OMOTO AT: martyomoto@rcip.com

VERY URGENT!!!!

PLEASE HELP CDCAN CONTINUE ITS WORK!!!



We need your help. CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings, reports and alerts and other activities cannot continue without your help.

To continue the CDCAN website, the CDCAN News Reports. sent out and read by over 50,000 people and organizations, policy makers and media across California and to continue the CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings which since December 2003 have connected thousands of people with disabilities, seniors, mental health needs, people with MS and other disorders, people with traumatic brain and other injuries to public policy makers, legislators, and issues.

Please send your contribution/donation (make payable to "CDCAN" or

"California Disability Community Action Network):

CDCAN

1225 8th Street Suite 480 - Sacramento, CA 95814

paypal on the CDCAN site is not yet working – will be soon.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO the Pacific Homecare Services, Easter Seals, California Association of Adult Day Health Centers, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Toward Maximum Independence, Inc (TMI), Friends of Children with Special Needs, UCP of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, Southside Arts Center, San Francisco Bay Area Autism Society of America, Hope Services in San Jose, FEAT of Sacramento (Families for Early Autism Treatment), RESCoalition, Sacramento Gray Panthers, Easter Seals of Southern California, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Westside Regional Center, Regional Center of the East Bay, UCP of Orange County, Alta California Regional Center, Life Steps, Parents Helping Parents, Work Training, Foothill Autism Alliance, Arc Contra Costa, Pause4Kids, Manteca CAPS, Training Toward Self Reliance, UCP, California NAELA, Californians for Disability Rights, Inc (CDR) including CDR chapters, CHANCE Inc, , Strategies To Empower People (STEP), Harbor Regional Center, Asian American parents groups, Resources for Independent Living and many other Independent Living Centers, several regional centers, People First chapters, IHSS workers, other self advocacy and

family support groups, developmental center families, adoption assistance program families and children, and others across California.