

Investing in Your Health – Emphasizing Equity and Access Within California’s Public Mental and Behavioral Health Care System

Mental health is an essential part of overall health and well-being.

Health plans are strong supporters of the expansion of Medi-Cal eligibility and scope of mental health services under the Affordable Care Act, and cover mental and behavioral health and substance use disorder services at parity with other medical conditions.

Despite systemic workforce and provider shortages, we are taking a number of positive steps to strengthen California’s public mental and behavioral health care system, including:



Investing in shelters, services, and housing to address homelessness throughout California, including through Project Homekey.



Establishing an equity-focused “no wrong door” approach for Medi-Cal enrollees to quickly and easily access mental health and substance use disorder services, regardless of the delivery system where they initially seek care.



Building capacity to provide intensive community-based care coordination for Medi-Cal enrollees living with serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or serious emotional disturbance through Enhanced Care Management.



Working in collaboration with community organizations to establish programs that provide critical social health needs like housing support and alternatives to emergency room visits and hospitalizations for those suffering from a substance use disorder or serious mental illness crisis.



Working with the state to modernize and **streamline reimbursement for Medi-Cal mental and behavioral health providers to incentivize outcomes and quality over volume and cost.**



Health plans understand there is more we must all do to meet the **increasing treatment needs** of those suffering from addiction and mental illness, and will continue to invest in the mental health of Californians. By working **collaboratively**, with a spirit of shared responsibility, **health plans, providers, state leaders, and advocates can effectively address the mental health challenges in California, save lives and improve the mental and physical well-being of all Californians.**

