



Date: May 31, 2018

To: The Honorable Philip Y. Ting,
Chair, Budget Conference Committee

Honorable Members
Budget Conference Committee

From: Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director

Re: **Item HHS 32 – Clinic Behavioral Health Same Day Visits – SUPPORT SENATE
VERSION**

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) respectfully requests your support for the SENATE version of the budget for \$3 million to allow federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health centers (RHCs) to bill and receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for two visits if a patient receives mental health services, on the same day they receive primary care medical services.

Currently, if a patient receives treatment through Medi-Cal at an FQHC or RHC from both a medical provider (physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, etc.) and another health specialist (clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, etc.), DHCS will only reimburse the clinic for one visit. The patient would need to return to the clinic on another day in order for the services to be fully reimbursed as a second visit. This arrangement restricts access to care as arranging transportation and time off of work creates additional, and at times insurmountable, challenges for those seeking care. In addition, this restriction creates a financial barrier for clinics and prevents FQHCs and RHCs from providing comprehensive health care services to Medi-Cal patients.

Local health departments support efforts to ensure Medi-Cal beneficiaries are able to receive comprehensive care in one visit to California's FQHCs and RHCs. It is for these reasons that we respectfully urge your support. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

cc: Andrea Margolis, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Peter Anderson, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Scott Ogus, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Kirk Feely, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Anthony Archie, Senate Republican Fiscal Office