



April 24, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, MD
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Developmental and Trauma Screenings – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, is pleased to SUPPORT the Governor's proposed investment of \$45 million for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) screenings for children and adults enrolled in Medi-Cal and \$60 million for developmental screenings for children.

Local health departments have become increasingly interested in understanding the impacts of ACEs, child trauma, and developmental progress on the communities we serve and their nexus with health and social outcomes amongst our residents.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ACEs can increase a person's risk for hazardous health behaviors, chronic stress, and poor coping mechanisms, and result in lifelong chronic illnesses such as depression, heart disease, obesity, and substance use disorders. Research has also shown that individuals who have experienced multiple traumatic childhood events are increasingly likely to die up to 20 years sooner than those without these experiences. Early identification of trauma and timely treatment are critical to reducing long-term health and social outcomes, as well as subsequent high healthcare costs for both children and adults.

Developmental screenings assess a child's progress in motor, language, cognitive, social, and emotional development through standardized screening activities. According to CDC, children may be at an elevated risk of developmental issues due to various factors, including preterm birth, low birthweight, and environmental risks such as lead exposure. Providing evidence-based, periodic developmental screenings can ensure that children remain on track with developmental progress goals and receive necessary and timely intervention and treatment services. Further, developmental screenings can increase the likelihood that children thrive in social and educational settings and allow individuals to reach their full lifetime potential.

Local health departments support efforts to increase trauma and developmental screenings and referrals to timely and appropriate intervention and treatment to enhance the ability for Californians to reach their full health and social potential. It is for these reasons CHEAC supports the Governor's budget proposal for ACEs and developmental screenings.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee. No. 3
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Jennifer Kent, Director, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)