

## HEALTH TRAILER BILL – SB 171

### Home and Community Based Services

- Requires the Department of Health Care Services, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, to implement activities and expenditures to enhance, expand, or strengthen home and community-based services (HCBS) under the Medi-Cal program that are approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and federal guidance.
- Requires DHCS to comply with federal requirements and conditions to claim the increased FMAP
- Specifies that stipends or payments received by an individual through HCBS cannot be considered income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility for benefits or assistance under any state or local program.
- Allows the Department of Social Services, Department of Aging, Department of Public Health, Department of Developmental Services, Department of Rehabilitation, and the Department of Health Care Access and Information, to implement, interpret, or make specific any approved HCBS activity through all-county letters, plan letters, provider bulletins, or similar instructions without taking further regulatory action.
- Allows those departments to enter exclusive or nonexclusive contracts or amend existing contracts on a bid or negotiated basis.

### Housing Analysis

- Requires the Department of Health Care Services, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to complete an independent analysis to determine whether network adequacy exists to obtain federal approval for a covered Medi-Cal benefit providing housing support services.
- Analysis shall consider:
  - Providers that are not certified Medi-Cal providers, but receive funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing supportive services
  - Number of providers in relation to each region or county's number of people experiencing homelessness
  - Comparison of provider networks in states with a housing supportive services Medicaid benefit
  - Specific actions DHCS can take to develop a network of providers meeting the criteria of this section and an estimated timeline for developing an adequate network if the analysis concludes there is not currently one.
- DHCS shall report the outcomes of the analysis to the Legislature by January 1, 2024
- Allows the department to enter exclusive or nonexclusive contracts or amend existing contracts on a bid or negotiated basis.

### Network Adequacy Standards

- Extends time and distance and appointment time standards for specified Medi-Cal managed care covered services to January 1, 2023.
- This reflects a one-year extension.

### Community Mental Health Services

- Appropriates \$6,434,000 from the Federal Trust Fund to DHCS to support community mental health services.