



Date: February 11, 2022

To: Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director

Re: February 14 Hearing (Health Care Access): Child Health and Disability
Prevention Program – Family PACT HPV Vaccine Coverage – Medi-Cal
Expansion

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout the state, writes to provide input on key proposals from the Governor's January Budget:

Issue 10: Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program Sunset – OPPOSE

CHEAC regrettably opposes the Administration's proposal to sunset the CHDP Program by July 1, 2023. CHDP is a preventive program that delivers periodic health assessments and services to low-income children and youth in California. CHDP provides care coordination to assist families with medical appointment scheduling, transportation, and access to diagnostic and treatment services. Families that often do not know where to start to access care seek out and are provided services through their local CHDP program and are provided considerable support with navigating the Medi-Cal system and provider network.

Currently, CHDP programs help families find CHDP providers who can enroll them in the CHDP Gateway. In addition, local health departments work with partner agencies, such as social services, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, California Children's Services, Head Start, and child welfare services/foster care, to provide them with information and referrals to local CHDP providers. Under the proposed presumptive eligibility pathway for children, we are concerned that individuals and families will struggle to identify and access Medi-Cal providers given many of our current clients do not know how to navigate the Medi-Cal system and provider network.

It is also important that the state consider how eliminating CHDP funding to local health departments impact other programs, such as the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) Program. While DHCS indicates that no changes will be made to those programs, program staff often overlaps across the different local programs. For example, one FTE may be funded by .5 CHDP, .25 HCPCFC, and .25 CLPP. Therefore, the elimination of CHDP funding may unintentionally adversely impact services to other programs. Like other transitions, there will continue to be individuals and families that seek out local health department support in accessing care, and those residual responsibilities should be accounted for.

Issue 1: Medi-Cal Expansion to Income-Eligible Adults, 26-49 Regardless of Immigration Status – SUPPORT

CHEAC supports the Administration's proposal to expand full-scope Medi-Cal coverage to income-eligible adults ages 26 to 49 years of age regardless of immigration status. Research shows that health insurance improves access to health care and health outcomes. This proposal brings California closer to ensuring that every resident of the state has comprehensive, affordable, and accessible care and allows undocumented adults to access much-needed primary and preventive care services instead of forcing people to experience health conditions that often result in costly emergency services.

We encourage the state to ensure that state funding supports all aspects of the Medi-Cal program that the expansion would impact, including providing state funding for Medi-Cal Administrative Activities and Targeted Case Management programs (MAA/TCM).

Issue 6: Family PACT Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Coverage – SUPPORT

CHEAC supports the Administration's proposal to provide \$8 million in total funds to add the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as a covered benefit in the Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (Family PACT) program for individuals ages 19 through 45 starting July 1, 2022.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States and can cause HPV-related cancers and warts. The HPV vaccine offers protection against most HPV-related cancers and anogenital warts and is an effective prevention tool. CHEAC supports increasing access by providing coverage for the HPV vaccine through Family PACT.

Should you have any questions, please contact CHEAC Executive Director Michelle Gibbons at mgibbons@cheac.org or 916-327-7540. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Keely Bosler, Director, California Department of Finance
Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services
Richard Figueroa, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Tam Ma, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Joe Stephenshaw, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Christian Griffith, Assembly Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
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