Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services

**POPULATION IMPACT**

- **ALL**
- **FAMILIES**
- **TAY**
- **SINGLE ADULT**
- **VETERAN**
- **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- Direct the Department of Public Health’s (DPH’s) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) network to provide the full continuum of Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver services in a culturally competent manner to people experiencing homelessness.
- Direct DPH/SAPC to leverage new flexibility through the DMC-ODS waiver to increase access to substance use disorder (SUD) services by providing field-based services in the community for people experiencing homelessness.

**DESCRIPTION**

The approval of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) DMC-ODS Waiver by the Federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) allows counties to voluntarily opt in to expand reimbursable services under the DMC program. This opportunity includes a fuller continuum of care and appropriate support services, standardizes level of care placements based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria and medical necessity, ensures effective and appropriate care through quality assurance and utilization management efforts, more fully integrates physical and mental health services with the SUD service system, and transforms the overall treatment of SUD from an acute care model to a chronic care model.

The DMC levels of care (LOC) will include withdrawal management (formerly detoxification services), short-term sobering centers, residential treatment, and medication-assisted treatment, in addition to already available outpatient, intensive outpatient, and narcotic treatment programs. Additional services will also include a 24-hour toll-free access line to place individuals in the appropriate LOC, case management, recovery support, and coordination with physical and mental health. Placement at a particular LOC and service duration will be based on medical necessity, except for residential services for which the maximum service duration for adults is 90 days with a one-time 30-day extension if medically necessary, and a limit of two non-continuous 90-day episodes annually (standards vary for perinatal beneficiaries and adolescents). Criminal justice populations may be eligible for an extension of up to three months past the 90-day episode, for a total treatment length of six months if medically necessary.
SAPC is targeting a launch date toward the end of 2016 for the new waiver services, but this timeline is dependent on County, State and Federal approvals. With the aim of expanding network adequacy, SAPC is currently reaching out to providers to encourage them to become DMC-certified. SAPC intends to provide training and technical assistance to providers seeking State DMC certification, including current DMH providers who wish to also be certified for DMC. Network adequacy is also dependent on the ability of DHCS to certify new providers and LOC, particularly residential treatment facilities.

**POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATION**

All Medi-Cal beneficiaries who qualify for SUD services.

**POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS**

- Number of homeless individuals who are screened and identified as needing SUD treatment services
- Number of homeless individuals admitted to SUD treatment
- Number/ percent of homeless individuals who remained in treatment for at least 30 days
- Number/percent of homeless individuals in treatment who transitioned down to the next appropriate level of care (e.g., withdrawal to residential, residential to outpatient, and outpatient to recovery services)

**FUNDING**

DMC-ODS will fund SUD services.

**CONNECTION TO CITIES**

SAME

✓ COMPLEMENTARY

NO CITY ROLE

Cities could facilitate the siting of residential SUD treatment facilities within their boundaries.