



County of San Diego

KIMBERLY GIARDINA, DSW, MSW
DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SUITE 206, MAIL STOP P-501
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2417
(619) 515-6555 • FAX (619) 515-6556

PATTY KAY DANON
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

REQUEST FOR ADDITION OF LATE ITEM/BACK-UP TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ALREADY DISTRIBUTED

March 6, 2025

To: Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair
From: Kimberly Giardina, DSW, MSW, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Health and Human Services Agency

MEETING DATE REQUESTED: March 11, 2025

SUBJECT OF ITEM: AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO OPT-IN TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZED NETWORKS OF EQUITABLE CARE AND TREATMENT (BH-CONNECT) INITIATIVE, EXECUTE RELATED AGREEMENTS, ACCEPT ADDITIONAL MEDI-CAL REVENUE, AND PURSUE ADDITIONAL FUNDING, AND REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO ISSUE FINAL GUIDANCE FOR BH-CONNECT (DISTRICTS: ALL)

STATE THE REASONS WHY YOUR REQUEST IS TIME SENSITIVE AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:

Recent guidance from the California Department of Health Care Services clarified the need for the County of San Diego (County) to opt into Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT), as soon as possible, to quickly expand the array of benefits available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and to drawdown additional Medi-Cal revenue related to those expanded benefits. The immediate components for implementation include opting into evidence-based practices, the Access, Reform, and Outcomes Incentive Program, and the Mental Health Institution of Mental Disease Federal Financial Participation Program.

REASON ITEM CANNOT BE PLACED ON FUTURE AGENDA:

This requested item must be placed on the March 11 agenda to ensure timely access to new benefits for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Placing this item on a future agenda would result in delayed access to expanded benefits for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, a delayed ability for the County to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for short-term stays of 60 days or less in Institutes of Mental Disease, and other potential Medi-Cal revenue loss across newly reimbursable services.

Respectfully,

KIMBERLY GIARDINA, DSW, MSW
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Health and Human Services Agency

DISPOSITION: APPROVED/DISAPPROVED

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER, VICE CHAIR