

Mental Health and Health Care Reform

What are the opportunities?

Benefits/Services:

The mental health benefits and services available to newly eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries in 2014 must be equivalent to those available to the currently eligible Medi-Cal population. This includes all benefits and services required in California's 2 federally approved Medicaid state plan amendments and California's Medicaid Title 42, Section 1915(b) "freedom of choice waiver" which are delivered by county mental health plans.

One System of Care:

Mental health benefits and services available to newly eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries in 2014 meeting medical necessity for specialty mental health services should be managed by county mental health plans in the same manner that benefits and services are managed for the currently eligible beneficiaries.

Preserve the Safety Net:

Adequate funding must be provided to preserve the safety net of community mental health services for the insured, the newly insured and the residually uninsured. This responsibility was given to the counties by the state through realignment.