

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

May 13, 2025

Advancing CalAIM Benefits for Transition Age Youth

In 2022, the State implemented the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative to improve health outcomes and advance health equity for Medi-Cal members. The goal of CalAIM is to provide beneficiaries with holistic care extending beyond the doctor’s office or the hospital, addressing comprehensive physical and behavioral health needs spanning the social determinants of health. This included new statewide benefits for Medi-Cal managed care plan members such as Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS), intended to provide a better way to coordinate care and provide members most in-need with in-person care management where they need it.

ECM provides care coordination exclusively to populations of focus in managed care plans that traditionally have higher needs and utilize higher levels of care. In July 2023, the child welfare population of focus was implemented. With this expansion, ECM benefits, including coordinated case management, referrals, and community resource navigation were made available to Medi-Cal managed care plan members who are or were child welfare involved, including children/youth under age 21 and currently receiving foster care in California or who previously received foster care in California or

MOTION

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| Solis | _____ |
| Mitchell | _____ |
| Horvath | _____ |
| Hahn | _____ |
| Barger | _____ |

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another state within the last 12 months; have aged out of foster care up to age 26 in California or another state; are under age 18 and are eligible for and/or receiving California's Adoption Assistance Program; and are under age 18 and are currently receiving or have received services from California's Family Maintenance program within the last 12 months. Additionally, ECM providers are strongly encouraged to engage members in CS, which includes 14 new covered benefits such as housing assistance, medically tailored meals, housing modifications, respite care for caregivers, and asthma remediation.

These expanded benefits can help address historic challenges faced by youth in foster care and Transition Age Youth (TAY), who are served by many systems and are often in need of "air traffic control" care coordination services, which ECM for the child welfare population of focus can provide. Further, these benefits can enhance casework with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), providing children's social workers with a partner in supporting families, ensuring medical appointments are scheduled and attended, collaborating in the development of a care plan, and helping support families in accessing resources aligned with their cases. This is especially critical for those leaving the child welfare system, especially TAY, for whom ECM and CS can provide longer-term care coordination services and supports even after their DCFS-involvement has ended.

In June of 2024, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Lindsey P. Horvath, to ensure generational and life-long

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success for Transition Age Youth. The cross-departmental report in response to this motion established a framework as part of the County's System of Care to address "youth disconnection" facing youth ages 16 to 24 who are either not in school, training or working, or seeking employment. These disconnected youth are more likely to be part of a generational poverty cycle, be unemployed or underemployed, involved in the justice system, have behavioral health issues, experience housing insecurity and homelessness, and experience poor health and early mortality. It's estimated there are over 143,000 disconnected youth in the County, with a significant percentage being current and former foster youth. To help address these challenges, one opportunity flagged in the report was to maximize Medi-Cal and CalAIM benefits to expand access to services, including ECM and CS, for TAY. This included a recommendation to support TAY and disconnected youth with enrollment into Medi-Cal managed care. Pursuant to this motion, in September of 2024 a TAY Table was established to develop a comprehensive approach for the coordination of services, resources, opportunities, and care for at-risk TAY. Additionally, in 2023 the Board unanimously approved a motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn to contract with Health Management Associates to provide technical assistance to the Office of Child Protection in the planning and implementation of ECM for the child welfare population of focus in LA County.

As CalAIM was only approved as a five-year demonstration project, it is imperative that the County partner with managed care plans to deliver critical services to assist TAY and disconnected youth as soon as possible.

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Child Protection, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Probation Department, in partnership with the Department of Public Social Services, Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, and the Department of Youth Development, the County's Youth Commission, LGBTQ+ Commission, and in coordination with the TAY Table, to engage with managed care plans and report back in writing within 60 days with an established framework to ensure that every Transition Age Youth aging out of the County system has information and enrollment support regarding available healthcare coverage options, including benefits surrounding Enhanced Care Management and Community Support services via CalAIM under managed care plans. This report should include but not be limited to the following considerations:

1. A presentation of considerations for TAY enrolling in a managed care plan as opposed to a fee-for-service model; and
2. Determine a framework and roles and responsibilities to ensure TAY are ultimately enrolled with healthcare coverage that best meets their individual needs, leveraging existing enrollment and navigation infrastructure for this population.

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HLS:ac:jgd