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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
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ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

26 October 6, 2026

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

October 6, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

REVISED

REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (LAHS) CORRECTIONAL HEALTH AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (LASD) AS THE ENTITIES TO ASSIST WITH MEDI-CAL PROGRAM OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT; TO SERVE AS THE DESIGNATED ENTITIES TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT MEDI-CAL INMATE ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM (MCIEP) APPLICATIONS ON BEHALF OF INMATES TO SUPPORT THE CALAIM JUSTICE-INVOLVED INITIATIVE
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(~~4 VOTES~~ 3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Department of Health Services (LAHS) Correctional Health, and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) requests approval for LAHS and LASD to be delegated the authority to assist with Medi-Cal Program outreach and enrollment for inmates; designate LAHS and LASD as the authorized entities to complete and submit Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIEP) on behalf of county jail inmates in support of the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative; and delegate authority to exercise the option to contract noted application acceptance and submission services under existing contracting provisions. As of 2014, in accordance with Penal Code Section 4011.11, LASD has been the designated entity to assist county jail inmates with Medi-Cal application submissions.

The MCIEP is the enrollment and eligibility determination program under the Medi-Cal Inmate Program (MCIP), which is the broader county fiscal and administrative participation program. Under this program, counties can designate entities to complete and submit applications on behalf of the inmates to the county.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Designate DPSS, LAHS, and LASD as the entities responsible for assisting with Medi-Cal Program outreach and enrollment for inmates.

2. Designate LAHS and LASD as the entities responsible for completing and submitting MCIEP applications on behalf of county jail inmates.

3. Authorize and instruct the Director of LAHS and LASD, or their designated contracted entities, to identify county inmates that received medically necessary services outside the carceral setting and in a Non-County/private medical facility for more than 24 hours.

4. Authorize and instruct the Director of LAHS and LASD, or their designated contracted entities, to assist with the completion and submission of MCIEP applications to seek reimbursement for medical services provided to eligible county inmates in a Non-County/private medical facility for more than 24 hours.

5. Authorize and instruct the Director of LAHS and LASD, or their designated contracted entities, to submit MCIEP applications to DPSS for an eligibility determination.

6. Authorize and instruct the Director of LAHS and LASD, or their designated contracted entities, to submit Medi-Cal applications to DPSS for an eligibility determination.

7. Delegate authority to the Director of LAHS and LASD, or their designee, to execute agreements with selected entity/agency to provide Medi-Cal application support in the form of assisting with the completion and submission of Medi-Cal applications for MCIEP and/or the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative. Entity/agency are to be selected as the result of a Request for Applications (RFA) process. Selected entity/agency are subject to review and approval by County Counsel and 14 days prior notification to the Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).

8. Delegate authority to the Director of LAHS and LASD, or their designee, to prepare, sign, and execute any amendments to the above-noted contracts that extend or adjust the terms of any previously approved agreements for the purpose of facilitating and submitting MCIEP/CalAIM Medi-Cal applications.

9. Delegate authority to the Director LAHS and LASD, or their designee, to execute future amendments or change notices to the above-noted contracts that authorize modifications to or within budget categories within each budget consistent with the existing scope of services; add and/or change certain terms and conditions imposed by the funding source or by applicable federal or State law or regulations.

PURPOSE /JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Starting January 1, 2023, the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative mandates that every county establishes a Pre-Release Medi-Cal Application Process. This process aims to ensure that all incarcerated adults and juveniles who are released from a County Correctional Facility (CCF) have timely access to Medi-Cal services, provided they are eligible. The initiative includes various provisions that aim to improve the quality of healthcare and accessibility to Justice-Involved populations.

As outlined in Pen. Code Section 4011.11, the Board of Supervisors in each county, in consultation with the county sheriff and chief probation officer for juvenile inmates, shall designate an entity or entities to assist incarcerated individuals with submitting an application for, or otherwise assisting their enrollment in, a health insurance affordability program consistent with federal requirements. DPSS remains responsible for determining Medi-Cal eligibility.

Generally, federal law prohibits claiming Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) funds for healthcare services provided to inmates residing in correctional facilities. There is an exception to this federal prohibition when an inmate receives inpatient services at a medical facility located off the grounds of the correctional facility for an expected stay of more than 24 hours, and the inmate is found to be Medi-Cal eligible. The exception is available to counties who participate in the MCIP.

The MCIP occurs at both a state and county level and allows Medi-Cal allowable inpatient hospital services, including inpatient psychiatric services, and physician services provided during the inpatient hospital stay of inmates in correctional facilities who are determined eligible for Medi-Cal.

The MCIP is voluntary, and counties have the option to participate in this program by entering into an agreement with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Per legislation, there is to be no General Fund impact under MCIP. The purpose of the MCIP agreement is to establish the amounts needed to satisfy each county's responsibility to reimburse DHCS for the nonfederal share of the MCIP service costs incurred by DHCS.

If a county does not participate in MCIP or does not abide by the terms of this Agreement, the county remains responsible for arranging for and paying for medical care for its inmates. In Los Angeles County, LAHS entered into an agreement with DHCS to partake in the MCIP, see attached.

As a participating county in the MCIP, Los Angeles County is not required to pay for hospital stays that exceed 24 hours by county inmates determined to be eligible to MCIEP. Although a participant in the MCIP, federal payment cannot be processed for inmates without Medi-Cal eligibility. Inmates who incur medical costs while in custody do not have MCIEP eligibility, results in the county paying for such costs. As such, it is critical that these and all inmates are provided an opportunity to apply, submit, and have the determined eligibility to ensure that services are covered by dedicated federal funds. LAHS and LASD will utilize personnel to identify and enroll inmates potentially eligible for MCIEP. LASD and LAHS shall assist with the completion and delivery of completed Medi-Cal applications for MCIEP to DPSS for eligibility determination. DPSS, LAHS and LASD will collaborate to develop a cohesive process to maximize Medi-Cal Program/MCIEP application processing.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of this Board Letter will significantly reduce the County's financial liability for off-site inpatient medical services provided to inmates. While total MCIEP billings average approximately $38.0 million annually, failing to secure this delegated authority and maximize enrollment would leave the county to absorb an estimated $23.0 million annually in direct medical costs.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Board approval is required to designate a county entity to assist with the completion and submission of Medi-Cal applications for the purposes of the MCIEP and CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative efforts.

CONTRACTING

LAHS and LASD may utilize a contracted entity/agency to provide Medi-Cal application support in the form of facilitating and submitting Medi-Cal applications for MCIEP and/or the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative. An entity/agency is to be selected as the result of a RFA Process. Selected entity/agency are subject to review and approval by County Counsel and 14 days prior notification to the Board and the CEO.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Providing Medi-Cal enrollment processes and opportunities via MCIEP and CalAIM to uninsured Los Angeles County inmates reduces the burden on all county safety net systems, by supporting the reduction of recidivism into the criminal justice system and improving the health and well-being of county residents that pass through our carceral system.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Contreras, Ph.D.

Director

JC:MS
LD:am

Attachment

c: Health Services
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Mental Health
Public Health
Sheriff