

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

45 November 7, 2023


CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

LISA H. WONG, Psy.D.
Director

Curley L. Bonds, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Connie D. Draxler, M.P.A.
Acting Chief Deputy Director

November 07, 2023

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

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE MEDI-CAL WAIVER AKA CALIFORNIA
ADVANCING AND INNOVATING MEDI-CAL 1915(b) WAIVER, CONTRACTING AND
IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to extend the term of the authority to execute and operationalize new agreements associated with the State of California's Medicaid Waiver proposal. The California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal initiative aspires to improve the health and quality of life of the Medi-Cal managed care population through broad delivery system, program, and payment reforms.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Approve the extension of the authority delegated to the Directors of the Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), and Health Services (DHS) to negotiate, prepare, execute, and operationalize new agreements with health plans, provider groups, and pharmacy benefit networks necessary to establish or maintain California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiatives up to one year after the end of CalAIM. All other delegated authorities adopted in the December 7, 2021 Board letter will remain the same. Such agreements will be subject to (a) prior review and approval by County Counsel, (b) submission to the Chief Executive Office and Board of Supervisors (Board) not less than 15 days prior to the anticipated execution of any agreement under this request, in its then-current draft form with an opportunity to provide feedback to the relevant department within five calendar days thereafter.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On December 7, 2021, your Board authorized the Directors of DMH, DPH, and DHS to negotiate, prepare, execute, and operationalize new agreements with health plans, provider groups, and pharmacy benefit networks to establish or maintain CalAIM initiatives; this authority will expire on December 31, 2023. In order to expeditiously execute new agreements and remain compliant with the Statewide effort to streamline and standardize services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries through managed care plans, the departments are requesting an extension of Recommendation 1 in the December 7, 2021 Board letter titled "Approval For New Medi-Cal Waiver Contracting and Implementation Authority" up to one year after the end of CalAIM.

We are requesting this extension because CalAIM's roll out at the State level has taken longer than anticipated and the State has added new populations that are eligible for Enhanced Care Management (ECM). As a result, the health departments are still contracting with the managed care plans to launch ECM and Community Supports.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan, Strategy I.2.2 - Enhance Our Delivery Comprehensive Interventions: Streamline Access to Integrated Health Services.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

CalAIM will continue to be financed through a mix of federal, State, and local funds.

Each department will use its existing resources to support any new agreements entered into under this Board letter and will not require additional Net County Cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Since the adoption of the December 7, 2021 Board letter, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved the CalAIM Section 1915 (b) waiver and extended it until December 31, 2026.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH, DPH, and DHS to continue providing Medi-Cal beneficiaries access to critical health, mental health, and substance use services.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/7/2023

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Respectfully submitted,



LISA H. WONG, Psy.D.

Director



Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.

Director

LHW:CDD:KN:SK:ZW:atm

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Chairperson, Mental Health Commission



Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

Director