



## Connection Coalition

June 8, 2020 | 12:00 pm - 1:00pm  
Conference Call via Zoom

### Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Additional Agenda Items?
3. California Budget Issues from Members
  - a. Sheree Lowe noted CHA is asking state for budget monies to support hospitals with no luck. Hospitals are planning for a resurgence of COVID19 (C19). Submitting proposal to HHS next week. Kit Wall asked what about Federal Funding? Sheree noted she heard Imperial County has reported that US citizens were coming back from Mexicali to be treated.
  - b. Sheree shared Public County Hospitals have access issues as well. They were hoping for \$3b in monies, receiving a good portion of that but not all that they need. As CBOs close folks end up going to ERs.
  - c. Helyne Meshar: Loss of tax dollars due to downturn in economy is a double edged sword that affects matching federal monies. Folks are relapsing due to access issues and stress of unemployment.
  - d. Christine Graham: Kaiser Family Foundation survey found 45% of folks (surveyed) are having MH issues. Sheree: CA Healthcare Foundation put out a report on financial viability of CA healthcare market. Eviction moratorium had attorneys in line to file eviction notices after moratorium ended June 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Anticipated changes in Medi-Cal and the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit – Update
  - a. Todd Bledsoe: Wondering what the migration model might look like between now and January.
  - b. Sheree: 1915 waiver has a 6 month extension, CalAIM likely not until 2021 with some leadership departures at CDPH and DHCS
  - c. Randall Hagar noted the budget outlook vis-à-vis COVID is bleak.
  - d. Bledsoe: Transition of the Pharmacy benefit in Medicaid has been put on hold.
  - e. Paige Talley: DHCS holds quarterly meetings. Paige will send a link to CP to share with the group so folks can make public comment.
  - f. Randall noted the state's generic program has also been put on hold.
  - g. Jonathan Medeiros: SUD and anti-psychotic carve outs should be okay.
5. Other Current Challenges Affecting Access to Treatment/Prescriptions
  - a. Access to LAIs
    - i. No updates
    - ii. Jonathan talked with Mike Wofford about extending access into the fall.
  - b. Telehealth Update
    - i. Randall doesn't know if anything has changed in policies since COVID19 crisis started. Rumor mill has it that a lot of orgs would like to keep Telehealth access going post C19. There is a lot of activity in this space and DHCS is considering.
    - ii. Sheree noted that CHA and NAMI California are sponsoring AB-3242 (Irwin) which provides clarity on the use of telehealth in 5150 proceedings.
6. Legislation, Status on the following:
  - a. [AB 2100](#) (Wood) Pharmacy Benefits – set 05/18 in Asm Health
    - i. Paige: reported that it came out of appropriations and was scheduled for floor vote.

- b. [SB 855](#) (Weiner) Health coverage: mental health or substance abuse disorders.
    - i. Set for hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee with some amendments. Nothing terribly significant.
  - c. Other bills?
    - i. Nothing reported
7. Coalition for Whole Health Update
- a. Curtis Paullins informed the group that Carol reported on the May meeting and the June call wasn't happening until after the Connection Coalition June meeting, so there would be no further report.
8. Next meeting is on July 13<sup>th</sup> - Conference Call via Zoom or In-person depending on SIP restrictions

**Participants:**

Todd Bledsoe, Neurocrine Biosciences  
Theresa Comstock, CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions  
Jennifer Cunningham, Johnson & Johnson  
Christine Graham, Stars Behavioral Health Group  
April Grant, Alkermes  
Randall Hagar, California Psychiatric Association  
Alexandra Lamirande, Perry Communications Group (on behalf of California Chronic Care Coalition)  
Amanda Levy, California Psychological Association  
Sheree Lowe, California Hospital Association  
Justin May, Alkermes  
Trish McDaid-O'Neill, Sunovion  
Jonathan Medeiros, Pfizer  
Helyne Meshar, CA Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives  
Heidi Strunk, Mental Health America of California  
Paige Talley, California Council for the Advancement of Pharmacy  
Kit Wall, Words to Deeds (a program of Forensic Mental Health Association of CA)