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DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

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To Current DHCS Behavioral Health Advisory Group Members:

To improve stakeholder engagement, and in keeping with our goal to better integrate mental health and substance use disorder services with the rest of the health care system and programs we oversee, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is pleased to announce the formation of a new Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee (BH-SAC). This effort will align with DHCS' internal reorganization to further integrate behavioral health with the broader health system. The new Committee will be chaired by myself; Mari Cantwell, our Chief Deputy for Health Care Programs; and our Behavioral Health Deputy Director, and will advise DHCS on behavioral health components of the Medi-Cal program as well as behavioral health policy issues more broadly.

The first meeting of the BH-SAC will be July 10, 2019. For this initial meeting and all meetings going forward, the BH-SAC will meet on the same day and at the same location as the existing Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). Our intent is to leverage the successful structure of our existing SAC meeting, as well as the expertise of SAC members who may also be members of the BH-SAC. The BH-SAC will incorporate the following stakeholder groups: the Driving Under the Influence Advisory Group, Narcotic Treatment Program Advisory Committee, Performance Outcomes System Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Interagency Prevention Advisory Council, and the Youth Advisory Group. Other BH advisory groups may be incorporated into BH-SAC at a later date. As of July 1, 2019, and going forward, these meetings will be incorporated into the BH-SAC meeting. Further information is available on the DHCS [website](#) for BH-SAC.

DHCS is seeking representation from individuals with BH prevention, treatment, and recovery experience to serve as members on the BH-SAC. If you wish to be considered by DHCS for membership, please complete a [membership application](#) and submit it to the BehavioralHealthSAC@dhcs.ca.gov by May 17, 2019. The membership of the workgroup will be limited to ensure a productive discussion environment; however, all BH-SAC meetings will be open to the public.

I want to personally thank you for your service on one of our current DHCS advisory groups. Your work has been critical in moving forward California's vision to continually improve prevention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with BH needs. By streamlining BH stakeholder engagement through the new BH-SAC, DHCS will be able to further integrate BH services not only within the mental health and substance use disorder areas, but even more broadly across the department's programs.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kent
Director