

California Advocacy Network

for Children with Special Health Care Needs

News, policy updates, resources, events, and advocacy opportunities

Care Coordination

How Interagency, Cross-Sector Collaboration Can Improve Care for CSHCN: Lessons from Six State Initiatives

Families and care providers know that children and youth with special needs are best served through a coordinated approach across the myriad programs and agencies that touch them. Yet states face structural, operational, financial, regulatory, and cultural challenges to breaking down traditional silos to achieve interagency, cross-sector collaboration. A new report from Health Management Associates highlights how some states have made progress in overcoming these frustrating barriers. The report, supported by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, offers recommendations on how states might foster efforts to improve communication and coordination across programs and reduce fragmentation and duplication of services. Read a California-specific version or a national version of [the report](#).

Local Grants Focus on Transportation Issues, Coordinating Payment

Two members of the California Community Care Coordination Collaborative (5Cs) have received grants from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health to address a specific local system issue that is a barrier to effective and efficient coordination of services for children with special health care needs in their communities. The [San Joaquin County coalition](#) is working to improve access to specialty medical care by developing coordinated transportation to services outside the county. [The Orange County coalition](#) is addressing better coordination of payment for medically necessary services and supplies across three key organizations serving children with special health care needs. [Read more about the 5Cs](#).

California Children's Services

Advocates Make Recommendations Regarding Upcoming CCS Changes

Following the January 10 meeting of the CCS Advisory Group, the steering committee of CRISS (Children's Regional Integrated Service System) has sent comments to the Department of Health Care Services regarding its proposed requirements for an adequate CCS provider network in the counties where children will be shifted to coverage under Medi-Cal managed care. The letter addresses whether available specialists will be pediatric specialists, whether a full array of specialists will be available, and other issues that may be of interest to stakeholders. [Read the letter](#) and see the meeting [presentation slides](#) it mentions.

Also See: [A CRISS letter](#) to the Department recommending changes to the 90-day notice letter that will be sent to families who will be affected by the change to Medi-Cal managed care. The comments deal with whether families can retain the same doctors and case managers, transportation services, and other issues.

National Policy

CHIP Renewed for Six Years but Experts Warn of Funding "Cliff"

Congress has approved, and the President has signed, a Continuing Resolution (CR) that reauthorizes funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for six years. However, the CR, which keeps the federal government open through February 8, includes language that could cause funding for CHIP to drop from \$25.9 billion in 2023 to just \$5.7 billion in 2024—a 78 percent cut. [Read more](#) from Bruce Lesley, president of First Focus.

Federal Caregivers Act Signed into Law

The newly signed Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017 requires establishment of a federal strategy to identify and support the nation's 40 million family caregivers. The Act does not specifically mention programs for children or children with special health care needs. [Read more](#).

California Policy

Department of Health Care Services Stakeholder Advisory Committee to Meet

- Date** Thursday, February 8
- Time** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pacific Time
- Location** The California Endowment, 1414 K Street, First Floor Conference Room, Sacramento
- Dial In** (888) 606-5935; Passcode: 9283547
- Details** Department officials will comment on the Governor's proposed budget. The meeting agenda, and the summary of the October 19, 2017, meeting, are available on the [Advisory Committee website](#). Public comment will be accepted at the end of the meeting.

Family Engagement

Employment Opportunity: FVCA Project Leadership

Family Voices of California (FVCA) is accepting applications for a Training Program Manager who will work to further expand "[Project Leadership](#)," FVCA's statewide parent leadership training program for families of children and youth with special health care needs. [Read more and apply](#).

AMCHP Annual Conference to Feature "Family Engagement with Impact: A Discussion Among Parents"

Parents who have been involved in programs and policymaking will discuss their activities in a parent-run conversation at the annual conference of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. The parents will reflect on what difference their involvement has made for themselves, for the agencies and programs with which they've worked, and for other parents. The conference is scheduled for February 10-13 in Arlington, Virginia. [Read more and register](#).

Research

Preschool Removals Primarily Affect Children with Disabilities, Behavioral Difficulties

Three-quarters of preschool suspensions and expulsions affect children with disabilities and social or behavioral difficulties although those children comprise only 12% of total enrollment, according to an analysis from the Center for American Progress. The odds of being suspended or expelled are more than 14.5 times higher for children with disabilities and emotional challenges than for their typically developing peers, according to this analysis of data from the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health. [Read the report.](#)

Telehealth

Abstracts Invited for Health Affairs Issue on Telehealth

February 12 is the deadline to submit 500-word abstracts to the journal *Health Affairs* for an upcoming issue devoted to telehealth. About 20 peer-reviewed articles will be included on a range of topics related to telehealth policy. [Read more.](#)

Resources

- [Popular Catalyst Center Resources from 2017](#) – Policy briefs, fact sheets, tutorials, webinars, and other resources that focus on improving health insurance and financing of care for children and youth with special health care needs.

Webinars

2017 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium

Date Tuesday, February 13

Time 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pacific Time

Details The event includes a roll-out of new data and statistics, and a panel of government agencies discussing trends and data usage. The Compendium is a web-based tool that pools disability statistics published by various federal agencies. [Read more and register.](#)

Decision Making in Pediatric Palliative Care

- Date** Tuesday, February 20
- Time** 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time
- Sponsor** Coalition for Compassionate Care of California
- Details** Fee; 1 CEU available for nurses and social workers. Discussion will include available data on decision making in pediatric palliative care, the barriers to decision making, and a method to help providers think through difficult decisions with parents. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss difficult cases of their own. [Register](#).

Events

Family Voices CA Health Summit & Legislative Day

There is still time to register for the Family Voices of California Health Summit & Legislative Day on February 26-27. [Read more and register](#).

In the News

- [How Inclusion Became One of the Most Popular Classes at School](#)
Disability Scoop, 1/29/18
- [Chronicling America's Health Divide](#)
Center for Health Journalism, 1/22/18
- [High-Tech Imaging Could Reveal Mysteries of Bone Damage in Kids with Chronic Disease](#)
Stanford Medicine, 1/22/18
- [Education Matters: 'Kids Cafe' Helping Students with Special Needs Gain Restaurant Skills](#)
YourCentralValley.com, 1/22/18
- [Vanderbilt "Makeathon" Creates New Inventions for People with Special Needs](#)
USA Today, 1/21/18

We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what's happening with your organization or family. Email newsletter editor Eileen Walsh at Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org with your news or updates.

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