

January 17, 2019

## California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs

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

### California Children's Services

#### New Workgroup to Address Transition to Adult Care

California Children's Services has established a workgroup to consider three key questions about the transition to adulthood: at what age should transition activities begin; what transition activities should be required; and for what population of children? The workgroup will develop recommendations for the Department of Health Care Services. The group's first meeting will be a webinar that offers listen-only access for the public.

**Date** Wednesday, January 30  
**Time** 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time  
**Details** Detailed webinar information, the meeting agenda and meeting materials will be available prior to the webinar on the CCS Advisory Group [website](#). Send inquiries to [CCSRedesign@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:CCSRedesign@dhs.ca.gov).

#### CCS Advisory Group Hears Updates on Whole Child Model

Agenda items at the California Children's Services Advisory Group meeting held January 9 in Sacramento included updates on implementation of the Whole Child Model, which moves CCS children into Medi-Cal managed care; a presentation about a Whole Child Model pilot managed care plan at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego; and information about new workgroups that will address NICU medical eligibility and transition to adult care (see related item above). [See the agenda and slides](#).

### Transition to Adult Care

#### Transition Quiz Now Available Online in English, Spanish

Got Transition has translated its quiz, "[Are You Ready to Transition to Adult Care?](#)" into [Spanish](#). The online quiz asks key questions to help prepare young people for transition, and the site includes tips and linked resources.

### Family Engagement

#### Five Strategies for Engaging Family Partners

System improvement cannot take place without the involvement of families. The National Institute for Children's Health Quality suggests five essentials for developing meaningful family partnerships. [Read more](#).

#### Family Engagement Tool on Agenda for AMCHP Annual Conference; Early Bird Deadline Approaching

More than 800 maternal and child health leaders, researchers, and advocates will gather at the Association of Maternal Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Annual Conference March 9-12 in San Antonio, Texas. A [new tool for assessing family engagement](#) in the health care system, whose development was funded by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, will be featured in a conference session. [Register](#) by midnight **February 8** for an early bird discount. Enroll in a [related webinar](#) coming up on January 23.

### Research

#### Academy of Pediatrics: Guidance on Psychosocial Factors that May Affect Children with Special Health Care Needs

Pediatricians need to be aware of the potential impact of psychosocial factors on the health and well-being of CSHCN and their families, according to a clinical report from the American Academy of Pediatrics recently published in *Pediatrics*. The report provides guidance for pediatric providers to facilitate and coordinate care and urges pediatric practices to collaborate with behavioral health providers, schools, social services, and other community agencies that are part of their patient's life. [Read the report](#).

Also See: [Breaking Through the Social Determinants of Health – for Children's Sake](#) – A report from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on a model it has developed to address some of the social conditions that affect patient health.

### Care Coordination/Medical Complexity

#### Blueprint for Complex Care: 11 Opportunities to Strengthen the Field

An infographic from the Center for Health Care Strategies highlights recommendations for advancing the complex care field, based on input from stakeholders across the country. [View the infographic](#). See details about a [related webinar](#).

### Viewpoint

#### Can You 'Make the Case' for Pediatric Palliative Care?

The Center to Advance Palliative Care conducted a series of interviews with leaders at children's hospitals around the US to identify recurring themes about the value of pediatric palliative care. The findings, which conclude that palliative care is a "must-have," were presented at a March 2018 symposium. The results are summarized in this [blog post](#).

Also See: The Coalition for Compassionate Care of California is accepting proposals for poster presentations at its upcoming 2019 Annual Summit, scheduled for April 8-9 in San Francisco. The submission deadline is **January 25**. [Learn more](#).

### Health Care Financing

- [Infographic: Value-Based Purchasing for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#) – One in a series from the Catalyst Center on health care financing and coverage.

### California Policy

#### Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel (MCHAP) to Meet

**Date** Thursday, January 24  
**Time** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pacific Time  
**Location** The California Endowment  
1414 K St, Sacramento – First Floor Conference Room  
**Dial-In** (888) 947-8923; Passcode: 2475546  
**Details** The MCHAP is a 15-member independent statewide advisory body that advises the Department of Health Care Services on matters relevant to children enrolled in Medi-Cal. The meeting agenda and materials are available on the [website](#).

### National Policy

#### Bill to Watch

[HR 7217](#) – The US Senate has not yet acted on the IMPROVE Act, which includes a revised version of the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act (ACE Kids Act) that would allow a state Medicaid program or child health plan to provide coordinated care in health homes for children with complex medical conditions, even allowing enrollment across state lines. The House passed the bill in December.

#### In Brief

- [40th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\), 2018](#) (PDF) – from the US Department of Education
- [Proposed Revisions to Medicaid Managed Care Leave Framework in Place but Weaken Requirements on Access to Care](#) – from The Commonwealth Fund
- [What Does the Partial Government Shutdown Mean for Medicaid and CHIP?](#) – from the Georgetown Center for Children and Families

### Resources

- [Understanding and Addressing Medication Complexity](#) – A fact sheet from the Center for Health Care Strategies that offers community-based solutions for minimizing risks for individuals requiring multiple medications.
- *Complex Child* January issue: [Pain and Debilitating Symptoms](#)

### Funding Opportunity

#### Grants Available for Innovative Programs

Federal grant applications are being accepted under the *Innovations in Care Coordination for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities Program*. Applications are due **March 8**. [Read details](#).

### Webinars

#### ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts

**Date** Thursday, January 31  
**Time** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time  
**Details** ABLE accounts and Special Needs Trusts (SNTs) both are accounts that allow for the accumulation of resources, for the benefit of an individual with a disability, without jeopardizing key federally funded benefits. This webinar will discuss the advantages and the limitations of each type of account. [Register](#).

### Events

#### American Public Health Association: Call for Abstracts

The Disability Section of the American Public Health Association seeks abstract submissions for 60-minute poster sessions and 15-minute oral presentations at the 2019 Annual Meeting and Expo scheduled for November 2-6 in Philadelphia. Public health professionals, researchers and students are encouraged to share their research on topics related to disability and public health. Abstract submissions are due **February 19**. [Learn more](#).

#### California School-Based Health Conference

*Advancing Wellness and Best Practices for the Future* is the theme of the California School-Based Health Conference scheduled for May 9-10 in Redondo Beach. [Read more and register](#).

### In the News

- [Feds Weigh Changes to Work Rules for People with Disabilities](#)  
*Disability Scoop*, 1/14/19
- [Parents of Special-Needs Kids Assume They're Less Desirable Employees. They're Wrong.](#)  
*Washington Post*, 1/9/19
- [Opinion: Hiring People with Disabilities Is Good Business](#)  
*NY Times*, 12/27/18
- [How to Plan Finances to Raise a Special-Needs Child](#)  
*NY Times*, 12/21/18

#### 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@jpfch.org](mailto:Eileen.Walsh@jpfch.org) with your news or updates.

