



▶▶ DMH's Legislative Update for the  
Behavioral Health Commission

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH**  
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## ▶▶ Federal Updates

- Potential scope of Federal Medicaid cuts is still not clear, nor is it certain that Congress will enact cuts to Medicaid at all.
  - DMH receives approximately **\$1.2 billion** in Federal Medicaid funding annually, a figure which represents over one-fourth of the Department's total annual budget, DMH continues to express great concern about possible Medicaid cuts.
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to discuss the potential cuts at a hearing on **May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

## ▶▶ President's Budget Proposal

- President's Budget Proposal included a major cut to behavioral health funds which would impact DMH:
  - Eliminate **\$1.1 billion** in SAMHSA grants, including funding for Mental Health and Substance Use PRNS, including certain harm reduction-related funding.
- **\$500 million** for HHS Make American Health Again (MAHA) initiatives on nutrition, physical activity, healthy lifestyles, overreliance on medications and treatments, the effects of new technological habits, environmental impacts, and food and drug quality and safety.

## ▶▶ President's Budget Proposal

- In the coming days, CEO and County departments will be analyzing the President's Budget Proposal to understand the impact.
- In weeks ahead, we will be closely monitoring the budget process as Congress agrees upon overall spending limits and finalize a concurrent resolution.

## ▶▶ Priority Legislation

- **SB 16 (Blakespear): Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program: housing element: Integrated Plan for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes.**
  - **Status:** Senate Committee on Appropriations.
  - **DMH position:** Concerned (over March 25, 2025 version), re-analyzing the April 24, 2025 version.
  - **County position:** Oppose (based upon the March 25, 2025 version).
  - **CBHDA position:** Oppose (based upon the March 25, 2025 version).

DMH is analyzing the extensive April 24, 2025 bill amendments. It is possible that the Department may change its analysis and recommendation to the Board upon further review of the new amendments.

## ▶▶ Priority Legislation

- **SB 823 (Stern): Mental health: the CARE Act.**
  - **Status:** Senate Committee on Appropriations. Placed on Suspense File.
  - **DMH position:** No position taken yet.
  - **County position:** No position taken yet.
  - **CBHDA position:** Support if amended.

Expanding CARE Court eligibility to include clients with Bipolar I may benefit some residents who may be referred to CARE Court in the future under the expanded definition. However, the Department is analyzing this bill to determine its impact.

## ▶▶ Priority Legislation

- **SB 367 (Allen): Mental health.**
  - **Status:** Senate Committee on Appropriations.
  - **DMH position:** No position taken yet.
  - **County position:** No position taken yet.
  - **CBHDA position:** Oppose (position announced prior to May 1, 2025 amendments).

Analysis is pending due to the extensive amendments that were recently accepted by the author.

## ▶▶ Priority Legislation

- **AB 348 (Krell): Full service partnerships.**
  - **Status:** Assembly Floor.
  - **DMH position:** Concerned.
  - **County position:** No position taken.
  - **CBHDA position:** Oppose unless amended.

The Department is in the process of analyzing the impacts of this bill FSP programs. DMH notes that this bill attempts to put programmatic requirements into state code via legislation. Currently FSP programmatic guidelines are controlled by state regulation, which is much easier to modify than state code.

## ▶▶ Priority Legislation

- **AB 416 (Krell): Involuntary commitment.**
  - **Status:** Assembly Committee on Judiciary
  - **DMH position:** No position taken yet.
  - **County position:** No position taken yet.
  - **CBHDA position:** Oppose.

DMH is in the process of analyzing the impacts of this bill.

## ▶▶ Additional Bills of Interest

- **AB 1032 (Harabedian): Coverage for behavioral health visits.**
  - **Status:** Assembly Floor.
  - **DMH position:** No position taken yet.
  - **County position:** No position taken yet.
  - **CBHDA position:** No position taken yet.

The Department agrees with the authors' statement about the increased need for behavioral health services due to the recent fires. DMH has also been seeing a rise in behavioral health needs since the fires, and we have also heard of similar increased needs in other jurisdictions that have experienced similar natural disasters and wildfires.

DMH agrees with the basic argument for the need to ensure access to behavioral health services for our residents, regardless of their insurance coverage and provider. This bill would not directly impact DMH or our services, DMH has no concerns with the bill and believes it would be beneficial for county residents overall.

# Questions?



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