

Substance Use Services in 7 Partnership Counties

New Substance Use Disorder Benefits under Medi-Cal

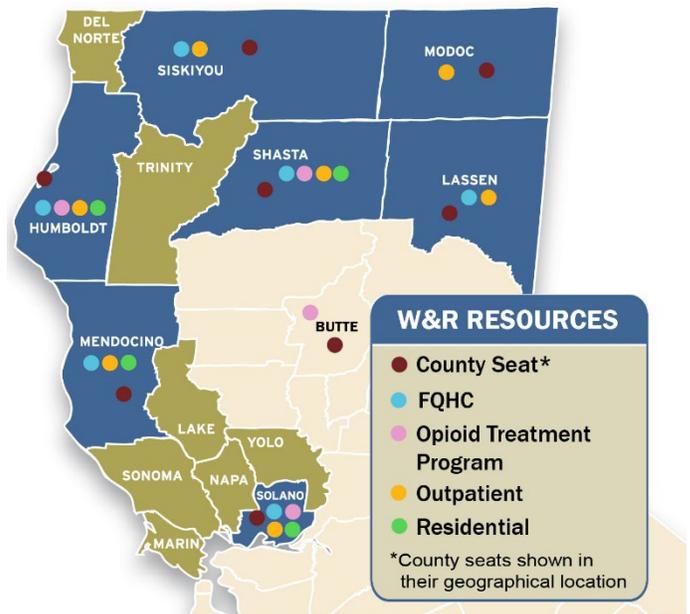
In 2015, a federal waiver allowed California counties to increase access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services for adolescents and adults who are eligible for Medi-Cal. The waiver expands Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) reimbursable services beyond outpatient, intensive outpatient, and opioid (narcotic) treatment program to create a full continuum of care that includes withdrawal management, medication-assisted treatment, short-term residential, case management, care coordination with physical and mental health, and recovery support services once treatment is completed.

Under this new model, treatment and placement decisions are guided by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria. Medical necessity is determined by a licensed physician or other provider. Beneficiaries will access services through phone lines that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Beneficiaries will receive a short ASAM screening, then be connected to the appropriate level of care. Counties/regions opting in to the model need state and federal approval for their programs and fiscal structure.

PHC Wellness and Recovery: A Regional Approach

Starting July 1, 2020, Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC), working with seven of its 14 member counties – Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Solano – will administer the new substance use services. This is the PHC Wellness and Recovery (W&R) Program.

PHC and our providers and partners in these seven counties will work together for integrated physical health and SUD services for the Medi-Cal population. Health care services provided by PHC will be more comprehensive and effective as a result.



Benefits of the W&R Program

The W&R Program will bring greater investments in substance use services, drawing from expected savings in other parts of the system, such as reduced emergency room and hospital stays. Other benefits include:

- Participation of small rural counties will allow access to those who would not otherwise be able to take advantage of the expanded benefits.
- More robust rates for providers can support more highly trained staff, expanded use of evidence-based practices, and use of electronic health records.
- New case management and care coordination services can support improved health, mental health, and SUD care and contribute to overall reductions in health care costs.
- Additional levels of care will help beneficiaries suffering from an SUD to receive the right services, at the right time, in the right setting, and for the right duration, and contribute to improved health care outcomes.