



JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2015

Mr. Patrick Gardner
President
Young Minds Advocacy Project
275 5th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

SUBJECT: Response to May 20, 2015 Correspondence

Dear Mr. Gardner,

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2015.

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is dedicated to ensuring that Medi-Cal beneficiaries receive services and coverage in accordance with state and federal law. Over the past four years, as you may recall from the *Katie A. v. Bonta* (Katie A.) matter, DHCS has made particular efforts to ensure that Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), and related specialty mental health services are provided as medically necessary and consistent with the spirit of the now expired Katie A. settlement, the California State Plan, and the recently renewed Specialty Mental Health Services Waiver.

Through your involvement with the Katie A. litigation, you are intimately familiar with DHCS's efforts to educate beneficiaries, service providers, stakeholders and others about these services. And, despite the termination of the federal district court's jurisdiction in the Katie A. matter, DHCS remains committed to improving facilitation of these services. More specifically, in conformance with the court's aspirations, stated during the final Katie A. hearing, DHCS is committed to working collaboratively with you and other Katie A. plaintiff representatives to address any concerns with the ongoing roll-out of Katie A.-related services.

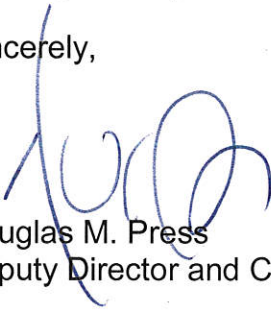
In accordance with this collaborative spirit, we ask that you please provide DHCS with specific examples of beneficiaries with requisite medical necessity who have been denied coverage for ICC, IHBS, or other related specialty mental health services. This information will allow the Department to evaluate whether any systemic or site-specific

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errors are occurring and whether any policy clarification is needed for a particular county, or statewide, to ensure that any improper denials of services do not occur in the future. We would also encourage any beneficiary who has been denied services to pursue a grievance or appeal within the necessary time periods. Further, if you believe the Department has issued incorrect policy statements (which we do not think is the case), please identify what you perceive as these purported inaccuracies. It is crucial that DHCS receive such specific information before we can fully evaluate whether and what kind of action may be necessary.

We look forward to receiving further information from you regarding this matter and to working collaboratively to correct any potential problem areas of concern. We would be happy to meet with you to help facilitate this information gathering and to discuss this matter generally. Please let me know if you would like to schedule such a meeting.

Sincerely,



Douglas M. Press
Deputy Director and Chief Counsel

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