



AB 382 – Children First

IN BRIEF

AB 382 will extend authorization for the [California Children's Services Advisory Group](#) (CCS AG), set to expire at the end of this year, until December 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

The California Children's Services (CCS) Program provides diagnosis, treatment, and medical case management services to more than 180,000 children under the age of 21 with complex health care needs who are enrolled in Medi-Cal, are low income, or have catastrophic medical care costs.

The program serves the state's most medically fragile pediatric population, including children with conditions like cancer, type-1 diabetes, sickle cell disease, and congenital heart defects. It pays for specialty doctors' visits, hospital stays, surgery, physical and occupational therapy, lab tests and x-rays, and orthopedic appliances and medical equipment, among other things. CCS case managers also work with families to help them manage the complexities of caring for their children.

In 2016, the Legislature approved SB 586, thereby establishing the Whole Child Model (WCM) program and [carving out](#) the California Children's Services (CCS) program out of fee for service Medi-Cal and into managed care in 21 counties served by the state's [County Organized Health Care Systems \(COHS\)](#).

SB 586 required the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish a CCS WCM stakeholder advisory group through December 31, 2021, and to consult with that group on the implementation of the program. SB 586 also extended the carve-out of the CCS program in other non-COHS counties until after an evaluation of the WCM can be completed.

After the initial delay to the implementation was announced, state lawmakers approved AB 1688

(2017), which extended the deadline for the required evaluation from January 1, 2021 until 3 full years of data is available from all WCM counties. Since the WCM was not implemented in the final COHS until July 1, 2019, the evaluation is not due to the Legislature until after July 1, 2022. This change also effectively extended the CCS carve-out in non-COHS counties for the same period of time but did not extend the sunset date for the WCM AG.

SOLUTION

DHCS has indicated it plans to wait until it has more information about how the WCM is working in COHS counties before it decides whether to expand it into other counties. AB 382 will extend authorization of the CSS AG group until after the evaluation is finalized, so the group can help advise the Department on whether and under what considerations any additional expansion of the WCM into counties with multiple managed care plans should be pursued.

SPONSOR

American Academy of Pediatrics, CA
California Children's Hospital Association
Children Now
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
County Health Executives Association of California
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Western Center on Law and Poverty

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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