



CHILDNET PHYSICIANS AND PRACTICE MANAGERS MEETING
9-4-19
Valley Children's Advocacy Update

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STATE

1. Budget

As a reminder, the current year state budget includes funding for the following new programs.

- \$15 million one-time for asthma prevention services and environmental remediation services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
- \$52.5 million for developmental and ACE screenings.
- \$25 million to train providers to administer ACE screenings.

At this point, we are waiting for more information from the state Department of Health Care Services regarding implementation of each of these programs and will be sure to forward information to providers as soon as we have it.

2. State Legislation

Below is an update on state legislation being tracked by Valley Children's. The final day of the legislative session for 2019 is September 13 and the final day for the Governor to take action on bills passed by the legislature is October 13. Unless noted otherwise, each of the bills listed below is active and still making its way through the legislative process.

Access to Care

- Assembly Bill 763: Simplifies referrals for pediatric specialty mental health services

Insurance Coverage

- Assembly Bill 526: Expedites enrollment into Medi-Cal for women and children
- Assembly Bill 577: Extends Medi-Cal postpartum care to one year for a maternal mental health disorder

Prevention / Public Health

- Senate Bill 207: Includes asthma prevention as a benefit under the Medi-Cal program
- Senate Bill 276: Tightens the current medical exemption process for childhood vaccinations

Work Force

- Assembly Bill 890: Expands the unsupervised scope of practice for nurse practitioners (**not moving forward**)
- Assembly Bill 1606: Provides funding for an endowment fund for a medical school in the Central Valley (**not moving forward**)
- Senate Bill 227: Increases state regulation specific to existing nurse to patient staffing ratios for acute care hospitals

FEDERAL

1. Prescription Drug Costs

The U.S. House of Representatives (7 bills) and Senate (4 bills) are likely to move legislation forward this Fall on legislation to control the price of prescription drugs.

2. Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program

A House Committee recently approved \$350 million for the new federal fiscal year beginning October 1 and we are waiting for action in the Senate. Current year funding is \$325 million and the Children's Hospital Association is asking for \$400 million.

3. Federal Rule on Public Charge

On August 14, the Trump Administration published a final rule in that changes existing federal "public charge" policies that govern how the use of public benefits may affect an individual's ability to obtain legal permanent residence. The rule is scheduled to take effect 60 days after publication, or on October 15.

The final rule expands the programs that the federal government can consider in public charge determinations to include food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance. While Medicaid coverage for children and pregnant women is excluded for consideration under the new rule, there is significant concern about the impact of the rule on access to needed services, as immigrant families are either denied legal residency and therefore access to these programs, or immigrants who are already legal residents choose to dis-enroll themselves and their children out of fear and confusion regarding the rule.

Valley Children's will continue to work through our national associations in opposition to the rule.

4. US Census 2020

Valley Children's is researching what role it can play to help promote as complete a count as possible in the 2020 Census that will take place this coming Spring.

Over the last 9 years, California has received \$115 billion through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 census. This includes funding for Medi-Cal, food stamps, student loans, housing, childcare, transportation, and many other programs.