



March 16, 2016

Member Agencies of the Human Services Alliance
c/o Pete Caldwell, Executive Director
We Care Services for Children
2191 Kirker Pass Road
Concord, CA 94521

Dear Members of the Human Service Alliance of Contra Costa County:

This is in response to your recent letter regarding EPSDT rates for services to children and youth and to the concerns that were raised in our meeting of March 8th.

We have carefully reviewed your request for an increase in the Schedule of Maximum Allowance rates (now referred to as the CMA, or County Maximum Allowance) and have agreed to a three percent increase on July 1, 2016 subject to adoption of the County budget at the recommended levels.

The three percent increase will be applied to all CMA's and the contract maximum payment levels will be increased accordingly. As **the CMA's apply to all Mental Health services, not just EPSDT services**, the increase will also apply to Adult services.

The 2016/17 Behavioral Health Division budget request also includes 3% for the Alcohol and other Drugs and the Homeless Community Based Providers.

A number of the conclusions stated in your letter regarding EPSDT services need clarification:

1. EPSDT services can be expanded in two ways: (a) by increasing volume and (b) by increasing the unit cost of the service i.e. the CMA rate.
2. Contra Costa County volume has increased from 236,000 billable units in 2012/13 to 277,000 billable units in 2014/15; a 17% growth.
3. Since enactment of the 2011 Realignment program twenty Counties have received an increase in growth funding for expansion of the EPSDT program. Contra Costa County was one of those Counties.



4. The State has committed to making the Counties “whole” for the EPSDT program but the process for doing so is cumbersome certainly not timely.

(a) The State reviews all County filed cost reports.

(b) It identifies the amount of EPSDT cost in excess of allocations for all Counties.

(c) “Assuming” the State has Realignment Growth revenue (Sales tax), it is then allocated on a pro-rata basis to the Counties.

(d) For Fiscal Year 2013/14 Contra Costa County received a notice of its EPSDT growth award on 9/23/15; fifteen months after the close of the fiscal year.

(e) The State will ultimately make the County “whole”: but, based on past experience, the timeliness is in question.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and partnership with the County to provide much needed mental health services to meet the needs of seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth in our community.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Belon, LCSW

Director, Behavioral Health Services

cc: William Walker, Health Services Director
Patrick Godley, CCHS Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer
David Twa, County Administrator
Supervisor John M. Gioia, District I
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II
Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, District III
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, District IV
Supervisor Federal D. Glover, District V