



County of Monterey

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June 10, 2024

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 1397 (Padilla) Behavioral health services coverage – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Eggman,

The County of Monterey is proud to support your measure Senate Bill (SB) 1397. This measure establishes a mechanism for county behavioral health agencies to recoup reimbursement from commercial plans for privately insured clients referred to services through Full Service Partnerships (FSPs).

FSPs provide comprehensive, intensive, community-based services and case management to those facing severe mental health conditions and play a critical role in preventing long-term institutionalization. All counties offer FSP services, which are unique for their low staff to client ratio, 24/7 availability, and “whatever it takes” approach tailored to the individual needs of a client. FSPs have been proven to help prevent costly hospitalizations, criminal justice involvement, and homelessness among clients.

Although the primary focus of county behavioral health agencies is to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries, they often serve the commercially insured who are unable to access certain specialty behavioral services through their commercial insurance, including crisis intervention services, first episode psychosis, FSPs, or other critical behavioral health services. Although counties fund services to individuals with commercial plans to the extent resources are available, they must prioritize their Medi-Cal plan responsibilities.

This bill is simply assuring that counties that provide behavioral health services through a Full Service Partnership within the county system will be timely reimbursed for their services at the contracted rate or the fee-for-service or case reimbursement rate paid in the Medi-Cal specialty behavioral health program for the same or similar services as identified by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

SB 1397 will create a reimbursement mechanism for county behavioral health agencies to recover the costs of providing lifesaving behavioral health services to commercially insured clients through FSPs. For these reasons, the County of Monterey supports SB 1397. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey’s Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

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Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors



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cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)