

Exhibit A – Attachment 1
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Implementation Plan

- A. The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Contractor's Implementation Plan for the [SMHS program and/or the DMC-ODS program] as approved by the Department; provided, however, that the requirements of this Contract, applicable law, or Department guidance shall control to the extent there is any conflict between these authorities and the Contractor's Implementation Plan. The Contractor shall obtain written approval by the Department prior to making any changes to either Implementation Plan as approved by the Department.
- B. If the Contractor is implementing DMC-ODS for the first time, or if Contractor will provide or arrange for the provision of covered benefits to new eligibility groups in either the SMHS program or DMC-ODS program, then the Contractor shall develop an Implementation Plan for the applicable program that is consistent with the readiness review requirements set forth in 42 C.F.R. part 438.66(d)(4), and, as applicable, state requirements such as Cal. Code Regs. (hereafter C.C.R.), tit. 9, § 1810.310 (a). (See 42 C.F.R. § 438.66(d)(1) & (4).) The Department shall review and either approve, disapprove, or request additional information for each Implementation Plan.

2. Prohibited Affiliations

- A. The Contractor shall not knowingly have any prohibited type of relationship, as described in subsection C, with individuals or entities listed below. The Contractor shall further require that its subcontractors and contracted providers abide by this requirement.
 - 1) An individual or entity that is debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from participating in procurement activities under the Federal Acquisition Regulation or from participating in non-procurement activities under regulations issued under Executive Order No. 12549 or under guidelines implementing Executive Order No. 12549. (42 C.F.R. § 438.610(a)(1).)
 - 2) An individual or entity who is an affiliate, as defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation at 48 C.F.R. § 2.101, of a person described in this section. (42 C.F.R. § 438.610(a)(2).)
- B. The Contractor, its contracted providers, and its subcontractors shall not have a prohibited type of relationship by employing or contracting with providers or other individuals and entities excluded from participation in federal health care programs (as defined 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(f)) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. sections 1320a-7, 1320a-7a, 1320c-5, and 1395u(j)(2). (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.214(d)(1), 438.610(b).)

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- C. The Contractor, its contracted providers, and its subcontractors shall not have the types of relationships prohibited by this section with an excluded, debarred, or suspended individual, provider, or entity.
- 1) A director, officer, agent, managing employee, or partner of the Contractor. (42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(b)(8)(A)(ii); 42 C.F.R. § 438.610(c)(1).)
 - 2) A subcontractor of the Contractor, as governed by 42 C.F.R. section 438.230. (42 C.F.R. § 438.610(c)(2).)
 - 3) A person with beneficial ownership of 5 percent or more of the Contractor's equity. (42 C.F.R. § 438.610(c)(3).)
 - 4) A network provider or person with an employment, consulting, or other arrangement with the Contractor for the provision of items and services that are significant and material to the Contractor's obligations under this Contract. (42 C.F.R. § 438.610(c)(4).)
- D. The Contractor, its contracted providers, and its subcontractors shall not employ or contract with, directly or indirectly, individuals or entities described in Subsections A and B for the furnishing of health care, utilization review, medical social work, administrative services, management, or provision of medical services (or the establishment of policies or provision of operational support for such services). (42 C.F.R. § 438.808(b)(3).)
- E. The Contractor, its contracted providers, and its subcontractors shall not contract directly or indirectly with an individual convicted of crimes described in section 1128(b)(8)(B) of the Social Security Act. (42 C.F.R. § 438.808(b)(2).)
- F. The Contractor shall provide to the Department written disclosure of any prohibited affiliation identified by the Contractor, its contracted providers, or its subcontractors. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(c)(1).)

3. Delegation

Unless specifically prohibited by this Contract or by federal or state law, the Contractor may delegate duties and obligations of Contractor under this Contract to subcontractors or contracted providers, if the Contractor determines that the subcontracting entities selected are able to perform the delegated duties in an adequate manner in compliance with the requirements of this Contract. The Contractor shall maintain ultimate responsibility for adhering to and otherwise fully complying with all terms and conditions of its Contract with the Department, notwithstanding any relationship(s) that the Contractor may have with any subcontractor or contracted provider. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(b)(1).)

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4. Subcontracts and Provider Contracts

- A. This provision is a supplement to Section 5 (Subcontract Requirements) in Exhibit D which is attached hereto as part of this Contract.
 - 1) Pursuant to Exhibit D, Section 5.d, the Department hereby, and until further notice, waives its right to prior review and approval of subcontracts or provider contracts, including existing subcontracts or provider contracts. The Department does not waive its right to review subcontracts or provider contracts for any other purpose outlined in this Contract.
- B. No subcontract or provider contract terminates the legal responsibility of the Contractor to the Department to assure compliance with all terms and conditions of this Contract. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(b).)
- C. All subcontracts shall be in writing.
- D. All provider contracts for inpatient and residential services shall require that contracted providers maintain necessary licensing, certification and mental health program approvals, as applicable.
- E. Each subcontract and provider contract shall contain:
 - 1) The delegated activities and obligations, including services provided, and related reporting responsibilities. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(c)(1)(i).)
 - 2) The subcontractor's and contracted provider agreement to perform the delegated activities and reporting responsibilities in compliance with the Contractor's obligations in this Contract. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(c)(1)(ii).)
 - 3) Subcontractor's and contracted provider's agreement to submit reports as required by the Contractor and/or the Department.
 - 4) The method and amount of compensation or other consideration to be received by the subcontractor or contracted provider from the Contractor.
 - 5) The requirement that the subcontract or provider contract be governed by, and construed in accordance with, all laws and regulations and all contractual obligations of the Contractor under this Contract, including the federal and state requirements listed in Exhibit E, Section 6.

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- 6) Requirement that the subcontractor or contracted provider comply with all applicable Medicaid laws, regulations, sub-regulatory guidance and contract provisions. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(c)(2).)
- 7) Beginning and ending dates, as well as methods for amendment and, if applicable, extension of the subcontract or provider contract.
- 8) Provisions for full and partial revocation of the subcontract or provider contract, delegated activities or obligations, or application of other remedies permitted by state or federal law when the Department or the Contractor determine that the subcontractor or contracted provider has not performed satisfactorily. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(c)(1)(iii).)
- 9) The nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this Contract, including the nondiscrimination provisions at Exhibit E, Section 4.C, and any other provisions specifically identified in this Contract as applying to subcontractors or contracted providers.
- 10) A requirement that the subcontractor or contracted provider make all of its premises, physical facilities, equipment, books, records, documents, contracts, computers, or other electronic systems pertaining to Medi-Cal enrollees, Medi-Cal-related activities, services and activities furnished under the terms of the subcontract, or determinations of amounts payable, available at any time for inspection, examination or copying by the Department, CMS, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (hereafter HHS) Inspector General, the United States Comptroller General, their designees, and other authorized federal and state agencies. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(c)(3)(i)-(ii).) This audit right will exist for 10 years from the final date of the Contract period or from the date of completion of any audit, whichever is later. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(c)(3)(iii).) The Department, CMS, or the HHS Inspector General may inspect, evaluate, and audit the subcontractor or the contracted provider at any time if there is a reasonable possibility of fraud or similar risk. The Department's inspection shall occur at the subcontractor's or contracted provider's place of business, premises or physical facilities. (42 C.F.R. § 438.230(c)(3)(iv).)
- 11) A requirement that the subcontractor or contracted provider maintain books and records of its work pursuant to its subcontract or provider contract, in accordance with Exhibit E, Section 5.A.
- 12) A requirement that the Contractor monitor the subcontractor's or contracted provider's compliance with the provisions of the subcontract or provider contract and this Contract and a

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requirement that the subcontractor or contracted provider provide a corrective action plan if deficiencies are identified, including as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 13, Section 9.

- 13) Subcontractor's or contracted provider's agreement to hold harmless both the State and members in the event the Contractor cannot or does not pay for services performed by the subcontractor or contracted provider pursuant to the subcontract or provider contract.
 - 14) Subcontractor's or contracted provider's agreement to comply with the Contractor's policies and procedures on advance directives and the Contractor's obligations for Physician Incentive Plans, if applicable based on the services provided under the subcontract or provider contract.
 - 15) Subcontractor's or contracted provider's agreement that assignment or delegation of the subcontract or provider contract shall be void unless prior written approval is obtained from the Contractor.
 - 16) The requirement that any person to whom duties in the subcontract or provider contract are assigned or delegated shall comply with the requirements of this section 4.
- F. The Contractor shall require that subcontractors and contracted providers under a contractual, referral, or other arrangement with the Contractor not bill members for covered services in excess of the amount that would be owed by the individual if the Contractor had directly provided the services. (42 U.S.C. § 1396u-2(b)(6)(C)).)
- G. {DMC-ODS PHC Model only}
- 1) PHC is the Contractor's sole subcontractor under this Contract.
 - 2) If Contractor's subcontract with PHC is terminated, the Contractor shall notify the Department within two business days. The Contractor shall submit the notification using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS.

5. Accreditation Status

- A. The Contractor is not required to obtain accreditation by a private independent accrediting entity. The Contractor shall inform the Department whether it has been accredited by a private independent accrediting entity. (42 C.F.R. § 438.332(a).)

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- B. If the Contractor has received accreditation by a private independent accrediting entity, the Contractor shall authorize the private independent accrediting entity to provide the Department a copy of its most recent accreditation review, including:
- 1) Its accreditation status, survey type, and level (as applicable);
 - 2) Accreditation results, including recommended actions or improvements, corrective action plans, and summaries of findings; and
 - 3) The expiration date of the accreditation. (42 C.F.R. § 438.332(b).)

6. Conflict of Interest

- A. The Contractor shall comply with the conflict-of-interest safeguards described in:
- 1) 42 C.F.R. section 438.58 and the prohibitions described in section 1902(a)(4)(C) of the Social Security Act. (42 C.F.R. § 438.3(f)(2).); and
 - 2) The California Political Reform Act, including Public Contract Code section 10365.5 and Government Code section 1090.
- B. The Contractor's officers and employees shall not have a financial interest in this Contract, or a subcontract of this Contract made by them in their official capacity, or by any body or board of which they are members unless the interest is remote. (Gov. Code §§ 1090, 1091; 42 C.F.R. § 438.3(f)(2).)
- C. No public officials at any level of local government shall make, participate in making, or attempt to use their official positions to influence a decision made within the scope of this Contract in which they know or have reason to know that they have a financial interest. (Gov. Code §§ 87100, 87103; 2 C.C.R. § 18704; 42 C.F.R. § 438.3(f)(2).)
- 1) If a public official determines not to act on a matter due to a conflict of interest within the scope of this Contract, the Contractor shall notify the Department by oral or written disclosure. (2 C.C.R. § 18707; 42 C.F.R. § 438.3(f)(2).)
 - 2) Public officials, as defined in Government Code section 87200, shall follow the applicable requirements for disclosure of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest, once it is identified, and recuse themselves from discussing or otherwise acting upon the matter. (Gov. Code § 87105, 2 C.C.R. § 18707(a); 42 C.F.R. § 438.3(f)(2).)

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- D. The Contractor shall not utilize in the performance of this Contract any State officer or employee in the State civil service or other appointed State official unless the employment, activity, or enterprise is required as a condition of the officer's or employee's regular State employment. (Pub. Contract Code § 10410; 42 C.F.R. § 438.3(f)(2).)
- 1) The Contractor shall submit documentation to the Department of employees (current and former State employees) who may present a conflict of interest.
- E. Additional Requirements.
- 1) DHCS intends to avoid any real or apparent conflict of interest on the part of the Contractor, the subcontractor, or employees, officers and directors of the Contractor or subcontractor. Thus, DHCS reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, whether any information, assertion or claim received from any source indicates the existence of a real or apparent conflict of interest; and, if a conflict is found to exist, to require the Contractor to submit additional information or a plan for resolving the conflict, subject to DHCS review and prior approval.
 - 2) Conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to:
 - i. An instance where the Contractor or subcontractor, or any employee, officer, or director of the Contractor or subcontractor has an interest, financial or otherwise, whereby the use or disclosure of information obtained while performing services under the Contract would allow for private or personal benefit or for any purpose that is contrary to the goals and objectives of the Contract.
 - ii. An instance where the Contractor's or subcontractor's employees, officers, or directors use their positions for purposes that are, or give the appearance of being, motivated by a desire for private gain for themselves or others, such as those with whom they have family, business or other ties.
 - 3) If DHCS is or becomes aware of a known or suspected conflict of interest, DHCS will notify the Contractor of the known or suspected conflict and the Contractor will be given an opportunity to respond to or resolve the alleged conflict. A Contractor with a suspected conflict of interest will have five (5) working days from the date of notification to provide DHCS with complete information regarding the suspected conflict. If a conflict of interest is determined to exist

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by DHCS and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of DHCS, the conflict will be grounds for terminating the Agreement. DHCS may, at its discretion upon receipt of a written request from the Contractor, authorize an extension of the timeline indicated herein.

7. Documentation Standards

- A. The Contractor shall implement and comply with documentation standards as set forth in guidance issued by the Department, including in BHIN 23-068 and any subsequent guidance.
- B. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Contract relating to documentation standards and a state or federal statute or regulation, or a BHIN issued by DHCS, the Contractor shall adhere to the applicable statute, regulation, or BHIN.

8. Laboratory Testing Requirements

- A. 42 C.F.R. part 493 sets forth the conditions that all laboratories shall meet to be certified to perform testing on human specimens under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). A laboratory will be cited as out of compliance with section 353 of the Public Health Service Act unless it:
 - 1) Has a current, unrevoked or unsuspended certificate of waiver, registration certificate, certificate of compliance, certificate for provider-performed microscopy procedures, or certificate of accreditation issued by HHS applicable to the category of examinations or procedures performed by the laboratory; or
 - 2) Is CLIA-exempt.
- B. These rules do not apply to components or functions of:
 - 1) Any facility or component of a facility that only performs testing for forensic purposes.
 - 2) Research laboratories that test human specimens but do not report patient specific results for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of any disease or impairment of, or the assessment of the health of individual patients.
 - 3) Laboratories certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in which drug testing is performed which meets SAMHSA guidelines and regulations. However, all other testing conducted by a SAMHSA-certified laboratory is subject to this rule.

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- C. Laboratories under the jurisdiction of an agency of the Federal Government are subject to the rules of 42 C.F.R. section 493, except that the Secretary may modify the application of such requirements as appropriate.

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1. Criteria for Members to Access Specialty Mental Health Services

The Contractor shall implement the criteria for access to SMHS (except for psychiatric inpatient hospital and psychiatric health facility services) established below. The Contractor shall ensure that these access criteria are accurately reflected in its manuals and other materials, including materials reflecting the responsibility of Medi-Cal managed care plans and the Fee for Service delivery system for covering non-specialty mental health services. (BHIN 21-073.)

A. Criteria for Adult Members to Access the SMHS Delivery System

For members 21 years of age or older, the Contractor shall provide covered SMHS for members who meet both of the following criteria, (1) and (2) below:

- 1) The member has one or both of the following:
 - i. Significant impairment, where impairment is defined as distress, disability, or dysfunction in social, occupational, or other important activities; and/or
 - ii. A reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning,

AND

- 2) The member's condition as described in paragraph (1) is due to either of the following:
 - i. A diagnosed mental health disorder, according to the criteria of the current editions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems; or
 - ii. A suspected mental disorder that has not yet been diagnosed.

(W&I Code § 14814.402, subd. (c).)

B. Criteria for Members under Age 21 to Access the SMHS Delivery System

For enrolled members under 21 years of age, Contractor shall provide all medically necessary SMHS required pursuant to section 1396d(r) of title 42 of the United States Code. Covered SMHS shall be provided to enrolled members who meet either of the following criteria:

- 1) The member has a condition placing them at high risk for a mental health disorder due to experience of trauma evidenced by any of the following: scoring in the high-risk range under a trauma

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screening tool approved by the Department, involvement in the child welfare system, juvenile justice involvement, or experiencing homelessness;

OR

- 2) The member meets both of the following requirements in i and ii below:
 - i. The member has at least one of the following:
 - a. A significant impairment;
 - b. A reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning;
 - c. A reasonable probability of not progressing developmentally as appropriate; or
 - d. A need for SMHS, regardless of presence of impairment, that are not included within the mental health benefits that a Medi-Cal managed care plan is required to provide,

AND

- ii. The member's condition as described in subparagraph (A) is due to one of the following:
 - a. A diagnosed mental health disorder, according to the criteria of the current editions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems;
 - b. A suspected mental health disorder that has not yet been diagnosed; or
 - c. Significant trauma placing the member at risk of a future mental health condition, based on the assessment of a licensed mental health professional.

(W&I Code § 14184.402, subd. (d).)

2. Provision of Services

- A. For each member who meets the SMHS access criteria, as defined above, the Contractor shall provide or arrange, and pay for, the SMHS listed below that are medically necessary (as defined in Exhibit E, Attachment

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1), and clinically appropriate to address that member's presenting condition, including services for a member who is under the age of 21 consistent with Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements. Contractor is obligated to cover all mental health services that are not covered under Medi-Cal Fee For Service (FFS) or by Managed Care Plans as non-specialty mental health services (NSMHS), as established in W&I Code section 14184.402(b), that are medically necessary EPSDT services for members under the age of 21 who meet SMHS access criteria. Covered services shall be provided in accordance with this Contract, the California Medicaid State Plan, the applicable statutes and regulations (including 9 C.C.R. §§ 1810.345, 1810.350 and 1810.405, and 42 C.F.R. § 438.210), and any relevant information notices issued by the Department. See Exhibit E, Attachment 2 for detailed definitions of the SMHS listed below:

- 1) Mental Health Services;
- 2) Medication Support Services;
- 3) Day Treatment Intensive;
- 4) Day Rehabilitation;
- 5) Crisis Intervention;
- 6) Crisis Stabilization;
- 7) Adult Residential Treatment Services;
- 8) Crisis Residential Treatment Services;
- 9) Psychiatric Health Facility Services;
- 10) Intensive Care Coordination (for members under the age of 21);
- 11) Intensive Home Based Services (for members under the age of 21);
- 12) Therapeutic Behavioral Services (for members under the age of 21);
- 13) Therapeutic Foster Care (for members under the age of 21);
- 14) Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Services;
- 15) Targeted Case Management;
- 16) Peer Support Services (if the Contractor has opted to provide Peer Support Services and has been approved by DHCS, the Contractor shall comply with the peer support services provisions in Attachment 2B); and

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- 17) For members under the age of 21, the Contractor shall provide all medically necessary SMHS required pursuant to section 1396d(r) of title 42 of the United States Code (W&I Code § 14184.402 (d)).
 - 18) Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services (also referred to as “Mobile Crisis Services”) (W&I Code § 14132.57, BHIN 23-025).
- B. Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan members receive mental health disorder benefits in every classification - inpatient, outpatient, prescription drug and emergency – for which members receive medical/surgical benefits, in compliance with 42 C.F.R. section 438.910(b)(2). The Contractor is only required to provide inpatient and outpatient SMHS, as provided for in this Contract and as required pursuant to section 1396d(r) of title 42 of the United States Code. Prescription drug and emergency benefits are provided through other delivery systems.

3. Requirements for Emergency and Post-Stabilization Services

- A. Emergency and post-stabilization services described in 42 C.F.R. section 438.114 provided in a hospital emergency department are not SMHS covered by Contractor. Emergency and post-stabilization services provided in a hospital emergency department for Medi-Cal members are covered by Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans or through fee-for-service. Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans cover and pay for medically necessary emergency and post stabilization services provided in a hospital emergency department including the following:
- 1) Emergency room professional services as described in 22 C.C.R. section 53855. This includes all professional physical, mental, and substance use treatment services, including screening examinations necessary to determine the presence or absence of an emergency medical condition and, if an emergency medical condition exists, for all services medically necessary to stabilize the member.
 - 2) Facility charges claimed by emergency departments (All Plan Letter (APL) 22-005, BHIN 22-011) for emergency room visits;
 - 3) Post-Stabilization services as defined in 42 C.F.R. section 438.114(a).
- B. Contractor shall comply with BHIN 22-017, BHIN 22-011, and any subsequent Departmental guidance, pertaining to authorization requirements for inpatient psychiatric services and payment responsibilities for services provided to individuals experiencing a

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psychiatric emergency medical condition, as defined in Health and Safety Code section 1317.1, in a hospital or psychiatric health facility inpatient setting.

4. Requirements for Day Treatment Intensive and Day Rehabilitation

- A. The Contractor shall require contracted providers to request prior authorization for day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation services, in accordance with BHIN 22-016 and any subsequent departmental notices.
- B. The Contractor shall require that contracted providers of day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation meet the applicable requirements of 9 C.C.R. §§ 1840.318, 1840.328, 1840.330, 1840.350 and 1840.352.
- C. The Contractor shall require that contracted providers of day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation programs include in the services provided one or more of the following service components: assessment, treatment planning, therapy, psychosocial rehabilitation. Both programs must have a clearly established site for services although all services need not be delivered at that site and some service components may be delivered through telehealth or telephone.
- D. Staffing Requirements. Staffing ratios shall be consistent with the requirements in 9 C.C.R. § 1840.350, for day treatment intensive, and 9 C.C.R. tit. 9 § 1840.352 for day rehabilitation. For day treatment intensive, staff shall include at least one staff person whose scope of practice includes psychotherapy.
 - 1) Program staff may be required to spend time on day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation activities outside the hours of operation and therapeutic program (e.g., time for travel, documentation, and caregiver contacts).
 - 2) The Contractor shall require that at least one staff person be present and available to the group in the therapeutic milieu for all scheduled hours of operation.
 - 3) The Contractor shall require day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation programs to maintain documentation that enables the Contractor and the Department to audit the program if it uses day treatment intensive or day rehabilitation staff who are also staff with other responsibilities (e.g., as staff of a group home, a school, or another mental health treatment program). The Contractor shall require that there is documentation of the scope of responsibilities for these staff and the specific times in which day treatment

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intensive or day rehabilitation activities are being performed exclusive of other activities.

- E. The Contractor shall ensure that the contracted provider receives Medi-Cal reimbursement only if the member is present for at least 50 percent of scheduled hours of operation for that day. In cases where absences are frequent, it is the responsibility of the Contractor to ensure that the provider re-evaluates the member's need for the day rehabilitation or day treatment intensive program and takes appropriate action.
- F. Documentation Standards. The Contractor shall ensure day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation documentation meets the documentation requirements in BHIN 23-068.
- G. The Contractor shall ensure that day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation have at least one contact per month with a family member, caregiver or other significant support person identified by an adult member, or one contact per month with the legally responsible adult for a member who is a minor. This contact may be face-to-face, or by an alternative method (e.g., e-mail, telephone, etc.). Adult members may decline this service component. The contacts should focus on the role of the support person in supporting the member's community reintegration. The Contractor shall ensure that this contact occurs outside hours of operation and outside the therapeutic program for day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation.
- H. Written Program Description. The Contractor shall ensure that all contracted Day treatment intensive programs and day rehabilitation programs have a written program description. The written program description must describe the specific activities of each service and reflects each of the required components of the services as described in this section. The Contractor shall review and approve or deny the written program description for compliance with this section. The Contractor shall not authorize a day treatment intensive or day rehabilitation provider to provide services until the Contractor approves the written program description.
- I. Continuous Hours of Operation. The Contractor shall ensure that the provider applies the following when claiming for day treatment intensive and day rehabilitation services:
 - 1) A half day shall be billed for each day in which the member receives face-to-face services in a program with services available four hours or less per day. Services must be available a minimum of three hours each day the program is open.

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- 2) A full day shall be billed for each day in which the member receives face-to-face services in a program with services available more than four hours per day.
- 3) Although the member must receive face to face services on any full-day or half-day claimed, all service activities during that day are not required to be face-to-face with the member.
- 4) The requirement for continuous hours of operation does not preclude short breaks (for example, a school recess period) between activities. A lunch or dinner may also be appropriate depending on the program's schedule. The Contractor shall not include these breaks toward the total hours of operation of the day program for purposes of determining minimum hours of service.

5. Therapeutic Behavioral Services

Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) are SMHS covered as EPSDT. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.215.) TBS are intensive, one-to-one services designed to help members and their parents/caregivers manage specific behaviors using short-term measurable goals based on the member's needs. TBS is described in the Department of Mental Health Information Notice 08-38.

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{SMHS only} PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

1. MEDI-CAL PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

- A. The Contractor has taken the option to implement SMHS Medi-Cal Peer Support Services.
- B. The Contractor shall provide, or arrange, and pay for Peer Support Services to Medi-Cal members. Contractor's provision of Peer Support Services shall conform to the requirements of Supplement 3 to Attachment 3.1-A and Supplement 3 to Attachment 3.1-B of the California State Plan and applicable DHCS BHINs.
- C. Contractor's implementation of a Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program shall conform to the applicable requirements of Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) 25-010 and to the requirements in any subsequent BHINs issued by the Department pursuant to W&I Code section 14045.21.
- D. Voluntary Participation and Funding
 - 1) The Contractor shall fund the nonfederal share of any applicable expenditures. (W&I Code § 14045.19(b)(2)) The Contractor's provision of Peer Support Services and the Contractor's participation in the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program shall not constitute a mandate of a new program or higher level of service that has an overall effect of increasing the costs mandated by the 2011 realignment legislation. (W&I Code § 14045.19(b)(3))
- E. Provision of Peer Support Services
 - 1) Peer Support Services may be provided face-to-face, by telephone or by telehealth with the member or significant support person(s) and may be provided in a clinical or non-clinical setting.
- F. Peer Support Specialists
 - 1) Contractor shall ensure that Peer Support Services are provided by certified Peer Support Specialists as established in BHIN 25-010.
- G. Behavioral Health Professional and Peer Support Specialist Supervisors
 - 1) The Contractor shall ensure that Peer Support Specialists provide services under the direction of a Behavioral Health Professional.
 - 2) A Behavioral Health Professional must be licensed, waived, or registered in accordance with applicable State of California licensure requirements and listed in the California Medicaid State Plan as a qualified provider of SMHS, DMC-ODS, or DMC.

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- 3) Peer Support Specialists may also be supervised by Peer Support Specialist Supervisors, as established in BHIN 25-010.

H. Practice Guidelines

- 1) Counties shall require Peer Support Specialists to adhere to the practice guidelines developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *What are Peer Recovery Support Services* (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, What are Peer Recovery Support Services? HHS Publication No. (SMA) 09-4454. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), which may be accessed electronically through the following Internet World Wide Web connection:
www.samhsa.gov/resource/ebp/what-are-peer-recovery-support-services.

I. Contractor shall oversee and enforce the certification standards and requirements set forth in W&I Code, division 9, part 3, chapter 7, article 1.4 (§ 14045.10 et seq.) and departmental guidance, including BHIN 25-010. Contractor shall ensure that the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program:

- 1) Submits to the department a peer support specialist program plan in accordance with BHIN 25-010 describing how the peer support specialist program will meet all of the federal and state requirements for the certification and oversight of peer support specialists.
- 2) Participates in periodic reviews conducted by the department to ensure adherence to all federal and state requirements.
- 3) Submits annual peer support specialist program reports to the department in accordance with BHIN 25-010. Reports shall cover the fiscal year and shall be submitted by the following December 31st.

Exhibit A – Attachment 2C
[RESERVED]

Exhibit A – Attachment 2D
[RESERVED]

Exhibit A – Attachment 2E
[RESERVED]

Exhibit A – Attachment 2F
[RESERVED]

**Exhibit A – Attachment 3
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Provider Compensation

The Department shall ensure that no payment is made to a contracted provider other than by the Contractor for services covered under this Contract except when these payments are specifically required to be made by the Department in Title XIX of the Act or in 42 C.F.R. chapter IV. (42 C.F.R. § 438.60.)

2. Payments for American Indian and Alaska Native Health Care Providers (IHCPs)

- A. Claims from IHCPs must be paid in accordance with the timeliness requirements in 42 C.F.R. sections 438.14(b)(2)(iii), 447.45, and 447.46 as applicable.
- B. The Contractor shall pay IHCPs at rates consistent with the requirements of 42 C.F.R. section 438.14(b)(2) and (c) and the State Plan, and as set forth in Department guidance, including BHINs 22-020 (SMHS), 22-053 (DMC-ODS), and 23-027 (DMC), as applicable, and any subsequent information notices.
 - 1) Department guidance specifies payment parameters for different types of IHCPs, including: Tribal 638 providers enrolled in Medi-Cal as Indian Health Services-Memorandum of Agreement (IHS/MOA) providers; Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities; Tribal federally qualified health centers (FQHCs); IHCPs that are enrolled as FQHCs, but not as Tribal FQHCs; and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs).
 - 2) These payment parameters apply to all covered services provided by IHCPs to the Contractor's members. The Contractor is not obligated to contract with IHCPs for services provided to non-AI/AN members, but if the Contractor chooses to contract with an IHCP for the care of non-AI/AN members, the payment provisions in this section apply to services for those non-AI/AN members.
- C. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} To initiate payment, Contractor shall require IHCPs to submit claims in accordance with Contractor's claiming requirements. The rate on the AI submitted claim shall reflect the rate the IHCP should be paid for the service in accordance with the authorities cited in Exhibit A, Attachment 3, Section 2.B. However, if the rate claimed is incorrect for any reason, the amount due to the IHCP from Contractor shall be consistent with the authorities cited in Exhibit A, Attachment 3, Section 2.B.

**Exhibit A – Attachment 3
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

3. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Prohibited Payments

- A. Federal financial participation (FFP) is not available for any payment amount for services furnished by an excluded individual or entity, or at the direction of a physician during the period such physician is excluded when the person providing the service knew or had reason to know of the exclusion, or to an individual or entity when the Department failed to suspend payments during an investigation of a credible allegation of fraud. (42 U.S.C. § 1396b(i)(2).)
- B. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1396b (i), the Contractor is prohibited from paying for an item or service:
 - 1) Furnished under this Contract by any individual or entity during any period when the individual or entity is excluded from participation under title V, XVIII, or XX or under this title pursuant to §1320a-7, 1320a-7a, 1320c-5, or 1395u(h)(2) of title 42.
 - 2) Furnished at the medical direction or on the prescription of a physician, during the period when such physician is excluded from participation under title V, XVIII, or XX or pursuant to section 1320a-7, 1320a-7a, 1320c-5, or 1395u(h)(2) of title 42 and when the person furnishing such item or service knew, or had reason to know, of the exclusion (after a reasonable time period after reasonable notice has been furnished to the person).
 - 3) Furnished by an individual or entity to whom the state has failed to suspend payments during any period when there is a pending investigation of a credible allegation of fraud against the individual or entity, unless the state determines there is good cause not to suspend such payments.
 - 4) With respect to any services or activities furnished for which funds may not be used under the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act (ASFRA) of 1997.

4. [Reserved]

5. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Audit Requirements

The Contractor shall submit audited financial reports specific to this Contract on an annual basis. The audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted auditing standards. (42 C.F.R. § 438.3(m).)

**Exhibit A – Attachment 3
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

6. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Recovery of Overpayments

- A. The Contractor, and any subcontractor or any network provider of the Contractor, shall report to the Department within 60 calendar days when it has identified payments in excess of amounts specified for reimbursement of Medicaid services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(c)(3).)
- B. The Contractor, or subcontractor, to the extent that the subcontractor is delegated responsibility for coverage of services and payment of claims under this Contract, shall implement and maintain arrangements or procedures that include provision for the suspension of payments to a network provider for which the State, or the Contractor, determines there is a credible allegation of fraud. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.608(a)(8) and 455.23.)
- C. The Contractor shall specify the retention policies for the treatment of recoveries of all overpayments from the Contractor to a provider, including specifically the retention policies for the treatment of recoveries of overpayments due to fraud, waste, or abuse. The policy shall specify the process, timeframes, and documentation required for reporting the recovery of all overpayments. The Contractor shall require its network providers to return any overpayment to the Contractor within 60 calendar days after the date on which the overpayment was identified, including requiring the network provider to provide written notification of the reason for the overpayment to the Contractor. The Contractor shall also specify the process, timeframes, and documentation required for payment of recoveries of overpayments to the Department in situations where the Contractor is not permitted to retain some or all of the recoveries of overpayments. This provision does not apply to any amount of a recovery to be retained under False Claims Act cases or through other investigations. Contractor shall comply with the reporting requirements, and other requirements, in BHIN 19-034. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(d).) The Contractor shall annually report to the Department on their recoveries of overpayments. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.604(a)(7) and 438.608(d).)

7. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Physician Incentive Plans

- A. The Contractor shall obtain approval from the Department prior to implementing a Physician Incentive Plan between the Contractor and a contracted provider (9 C.C.R. § 1810.438(h).).
 - 1) Pursuant to 42 Code of Federal Regulations part 438.3(i), the Contractor shall comply with the requirements set forth in 42 C.F.R. sections 422.208 and 422.210.
 - 2) Contractor shall not make payment, directly or indirectly, to a physician or physician group as an inducement to reduce or limit

**Exhibit A – Attachment 3
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

medically necessary services furnished to a member. (42 C.F.R. § 422.208(c)(1).)

- 3) If a physician or physician group is put at substantial financial risk for services not provided by the physician/group, the Contractor shall ensure adequate stop-loss protection for the physician or physician group and conduct annual member surveys. (42 C.F.R. § 422.208(c)(2).)
- 4) The Contractor shall provide information on its Physician Incentive Plan to any Medicaid member upon request (this includes the right to adequate and timely information on a Physician Incentive Plan). Such information shall include: whether the Contractor uses a physician incentive plan that affects the use of referral services, (2) the type of incentive arrangement, and (3) whether stop-loss protection is provided. (42 C.F.R. § 422.210(b).)

**Exhibit A – Attachment 4
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

1. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Health Information Systems

- A. The Contractor shall maintain a health information system that collects, analyzes, integrates, and reports data. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(a); 9 C.C.R. § 1810.376). The system shall provide information on areas including, but not limited to, utilization, claims, grievances, and appeals. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(a)). The Contractor shall comply with Section 6504(a) of the Affordable Care Act which requires that State claims processing and retrieval systems are able to collect data elements necessary to enable the mechanized claims processing and information retrieval systems in operation by the State to meet the requirements of § 1903(r)(1)(F) of the Social Security Act. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(b)(1)).
- B. The Contractor's health information system shall, at a minimum:
- 1) Collect data on member and provider characteristics as specified by the Department, and on services furnished to members as specified by the Department; (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(b)(2)).
 - 2) Ensure that data received from providers is accurate and complete by:
 - i. Verifying the accuracy and timeliness of reported data, including data from network providers the Contractor is compensating; (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(b)(3)(i)).
 - ii. Screening the data for completeness, logic, and consistency; and (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(b)(3)(ii)).
 - iii. Collecting service information in standardized formats to the extent feasible and appropriate, including secure information exchanges and technologies utilized for quality improvement and care coordination efforts. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(b)(3)(iii)).
 - 3) Make all collected data available to the Department and, upon request, to CMS. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(b)(4)).
- C. The Contractor's health information system is not required to collect and analyze all elements in electronic formats. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.376(c)).

2. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Encounter Data

The Contractor shall submit encounter data to the Department in connection with submitting claims, or otherwise at a frequency and level specified by the Department and CMS. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(c)(2)). The Contractor shall ensure collection and maintenance of sufficient member encounter data to identify the provider who delivers service(s) to the member. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(c)(1)). The Contractor shall submit all member encounter data that the Department is

**Exhibit A – Attachment 4
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

required to report to CMS under 42 C.F.R. § 438.818. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(c)(3)). The Contractor shall submit encounter data to the state in standardized Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12N 837 and National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) formats, and the ASC X12N 835 format as appropriate. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(c)(4)).

**3. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Interoperability Rule Patient Access
Application Programming Interface**

In compliance with the terms of BHIN 22-068 and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 22-068, Contractor shall implement and maintain a secure, standards-based Patient Access Application Programming Interface (API) and a publicly accessible, standards-based Provider Directory API, as discussed in Exhibit A, Attachment 11, Section 5, that can connect to mobile applications and be available through a public-facing digital endpoint on Contractor's website. (45 C.F.R. § 170.215; 42 C.F.R. §§ 431.60, 431.70, 438.10, and 438.242).

4. MEDSLITE Access

The Contractor shall perform the following:

- A. Establish County Behavioral Health MEDSLITE Coordinators (MEDSLITE Coordinators) to work with DHCS. These MEDSLITE Coordinators are required to sign and submit an Oath of Confidentiality to DHCS. Only these designated MEDSLITE Coordinators may initiate requests to add, delete, or otherwise modify a MEDSLITE user account. These MEDSLITE Coordinators are responsible for maintaining an active list of the Contractor's users with MEDSLITE access and collecting a signed MEDSLITE Oath of Confidentiality from each user. The MEDSLITE Coordinators are responsible for ensuring users are informed they cannot share user accounts, that MEDSLITE is to be used for only authorized purposes, and that all activity is logged. The MEDSLITE Coordinators may be changed by written notice to DHCS. They should be employees at an appropriate level in the organization, with sufficient responsibility to carry out the duties of this position. The MEDSLITE Coordinators will provide, assign, delete, and track user login identification information for authorized staff members. They are responsible for ensuring processes are in place which result in prompt MEDSLITE account deletion requests when the Contractor's users leave employment or no longer require access due to change in job duties.
- B. Ensure that information furnished or secured via MEDSLITE shall be used solely for the purposes described in this Contract. The information obtained from MEDSLITE shall be used exclusively to administer the Medi-Cal program. The Contractor further agrees that information

**Exhibit A – Attachment 4
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

obtained under this Contract will not be reproduced, published, sold, or released in original or any other form for any purpose other than identified in this Contract.

- C. Ensure that any agents, including a subcontractor, (if prior approval is obtained from DHCS) to whom they provide DHCS data, agree in writing to the same requirements for privacy and security safeguards for confidential data that apply to the Contractor with respect to this Contract. The Contractor shall seek prior written approval from DHCS before providing DHCS data to a subcontractor.
- D. Adhere to security and confidential provisions outlined in Exhibit F, the Privacy and Security Provisions for the protection of any information exchanged with DHCS.
- E. During the term of this Contract, the Contractor agrees to implement reasonable systems for the discovery and prompt reporting of any breach or security incident involving DHCS data following the process outlined within Exhibit F, Section 17.
- F. In order to enforce this MEDSLITE Access provision, the Contractor agrees to assist DHCS in performing compliance assessments. These assessments may involve compliance review questionnaires, and/or review of the facilities, systems, books, and records of the Contractor, with reasonable notice from DHCS. Such reviews shall be scheduled at times that take into account operational and staffing demands. The Contractor agrees to promptly remedy all violations of any provision of this Contract and certify the same to DHCS in writing, or to enter into a written Corrective Action Plan with DHCS containing deadlines for achieving compliance with specific provisions of this Contract.

5. ICD-10

- A. The Contractor shall use the criteria sets in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR), or current edition, as the clinical tool to make diagnostic determinations.
- B. Once a DSM-5 diagnosis is determined for a mental health disorder and/or a substance-related and addictive disorder, the Contractor shall determine the corresponding diagnosis in the ICD-10-CM, or current edition.
- C. The Contractor shall use the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s), or current edition, to submit a claim for covered services to receive reimbursement of FFP.

**Exhibit A – Attachment 4
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

6. HIPAA and Additional Data Standards

- A. If any of the work performed under this Contract is subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 (HIPAA), Contractor shall perform the work in compliance with all applicable provisions of HIPAA.
 - 1) Service claims shall be submitted electronically in a HIPAA-compliant format (837P or 837I). All adjudicated claim information shall be retrieved by the Contractor via an 835 HIPAA compliant format (Health Care Claim Payment/Advice).
 - 2) As identified in Exhibit F, DHCS and the Contractor shall cooperate to ensure mutual agreement as to those transactions between them, to which this Provision applies. Refer to Exhibit F for additional information.
- B. Trading Partner Requirements
 - 1) No Changes. Contractor hereby agrees that for the personal health information (Information), it shall not change any definition, data condition or use of a data element or segment as proscribed in the federal HHS Transaction Standard Regulation (45 C.F.R. § 162.915 (a)).
 - 2) No Additions. Contractor hereby agrees that for the Information, it shall not add any data elements or segments to the maximum data set as proscribed in the HHS Transaction Standard Regulation (45 C.F.R. § 162.915 (b)).
 - 3) No Unauthorized Uses. Contractor hereby agrees that for the Information, it shall not use any code or data elements that either are marked “not used” in the HHS Transaction’s Implementation specification or are not in the HHS Transaction Standard’s implementation specifications (45 C.F.R. § 162.915 (c)).
 - 4) No Changes to Meaning or Intent. Contractor hereby agrees that for the Information, it shall not change the meaning or intent of any of the HHS Transaction Standard’s implementation specification (45 C.F.R. § 162.915 (d)).
- C. Concurrence for Test Modifications to HHS Transaction Standards
 - 1) Contractor agrees and understands that there exists the possibility that DHCS or others may request an extension from the uses of a standard in the HHS Transaction Standards. If this occurs, Contractor agrees that it shall participate in such test modifications.

**Exhibit A – Attachment 4
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

D. Adequate Testing

- 1) Contractor is responsible to adequately test all business rules appropriate to their types and specialties. If the Contractor is acting as a clearinghouse for enrolled providers, Contractor has obligations to adequately test all business rules appropriate to each and every provider type and specialty for which they provide clearinghouse services.

E. Deficiencies

- 1) The Contractor agrees to cure transactions, errors, or deficiencies identified by DHCS, and transactions, errors, or deficiencies identified by an enrolled provider if the Contractor is acting as a clearinghouse for that provider. If the Contractor is a clearinghouse, the Contractor agrees to properly communicate deficiencies and other pertinent information regarding electronic transactions to enrolled providers for which they provide clearinghouse services.

F. Code Set Retention

- 1) Both DHCS and the Contractor understand and agree to keep open code sets being processed or used in this Contract for at least the current billing period or any appeal period, whichever is longer.

G. Data Transmission Log

- 1) Both DHCS and the Contractor shall establish and maintain a Data Transmission Log, which shall record any and all data transmissions taking place between the Parties during the term of this Contract. Each Party shall take necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that such Data Transmission Logs constitute a current, accurate, complete, and unaltered record of any and all Data Transmissions between the Parties, and shall be retained by each Party for no less than 24 months following the date of the Data Transmission. The Data Transmission Log may be maintained on computer media or other suitable means provided that, if necessary to do so, the information contained in the Data Transmission Log may be retrieved in a timely manner and presented in readable form.

Exhibit A – Attachment 5
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

1. Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement

- A. The Contractor shall implement an ongoing comprehensive Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program for the covered services it furnishes to Medi-Cal members, including quality management. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(a)(1).)
 - 1) {Integrated Contracts (DMC-ODS counties)} The Contractor's QAPI Program shall address both SMHS and DMC-ODS services, and shall describe strategies to ensure access to coordinated and culturally responsive care for members with co-occurring behavioral health needs.
 - 2) {Integrated Contracts (DMC counties)} The Contractor's QAPI Program shall address SMHS, and shall describe strategies to ensure access to coordinated and culturally responsive care for members with co-occurring behavioral health needs. The Contractor is encouraged, but not required, to implement an integrated QAPI Program that includes attention to all DMC services furnished outside the SMHS PIHP, in addition to the required QAPI activities described in this Attachment 5.
- B. The Contractor's QAPI Program shall improve the Contractor's established outcomes through structural and operational processes and activities that are consistent with current standards of practice.
- C. The Contractor shall have a written description of the QAPI Program that clearly defines the QAPI Program's structure and elements, assigns responsibility to appropriate individuals, and adopts or establishes quantitative measures to assess performance and to identify and prioritize area(s) for improvement. The Contractor shall evaluate the impact and effectiveness of its QAPI Program annually and update the Program as necessary. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(e)(2); 9 C.C.R. § 1810.440(a)(6).)
- D. The QAPI Program shall include collection and submission of performance measurement data required by the Department, which may include performance measures specified by CMS. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(a)(2).)
 - 1) The Contractor shall measure and annually report to the Department its performance, using the standard measures identified by the Department. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(b)(2), (c)(2).)
 - 2) The monitoring of accessibility of services outlined in the Quality Improvement (QI) Work Plan will at a minimum include:
 - i. Timeliness of first initial contact to face-to-face appointment or synchronous video or audio-only interaction, consistent

Exhibit A – Attachment 5
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

with BHIN 23-018 or any subsequent Departmental guidance.

- ii. Frequency of follow-up appointments.
 - iii. Timeliness of services of the first dose of NTP services (*not applicable to SMHS*).
 - iv. Access to after-hours care.
 - v. Responsiveness of the member access line.
 - vi. Strategies to reduce avoidable hospitalizations.
 - vii. Coordination of physical, mental health, and SUD services at the provider level.
 - viii. Assessment of the members' experiences.
 - ix. Telephone access line and services in the prevalent non-English languages.
- 3) With respect to the data elements required for External Quality Review (EQR), as described under Exhibit A, Attachment 5, Section 4, below, the Contractor's QI Committee (as defined below) shall review those data at a minimum on a quarterly basis since EQR site reviews will begin after county implementation.
- E. The Contractor shall conduct performance monitoring activities throughout the Contractor's operations. These activities shall include, but not be limited to, member and system outcomes, utilization management, utilization review, provider appeals, credentialing and monitoring, and resolution of member grievances.
- F. The Contractor shall have mechanisms to detect both underutilization of services and overutilization of services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(b)(3).)
- G. The Contractor shall implement mechanisms to assess member/family satisfaction. The Contractor shall assess member/family satisfaction by:
- 1) Surveying member/family satisfaction with the Contractor's services at least annually;
 - 2) Evaluating member grievances, appeals and State Hearings at least annually; and
 - 3) Evaluating requests to change persons providing services at least annually.

Exhibit A – Attachment 5
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

- H. The Contractor shall inform providers of the results of member/family satisfaction activities described in paragraph G.
- I. The Contractor shall implement mechanisms to monitor the safety and effectiveness of medication practices. The monitoring mechanism shall be under the supervision of a person licensed to prescribe or dispense prescription drugs. Monitoring shall occur at least annually.
- J. The Contractor shall implement mechanisms to address meaningful clinical issues affecting members system-wide.
- K. The Contractor shall implement mechanisms to monitor appropriate and timely intervention of occurrences that raise quality of care concerns. The Contractor shall take appropriate follow-up action when such an occurrence is identified. The results of the intervention shall be evaluated by the Contractor at least annually.
- L. The Contractor's QAPI Program shall include Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs) as specified in Exhibit A, Attachment 5, Section 5 below.
- M. The Contractor shall ensure continuity and coordination of care with other managed care plans and medical providers. The Contractor shall coordinate with other human services agencies used by its members. The Contractor shall assess the effectiveness of any Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a managed care plan pursuant to Exhibit A, Attachment 10 Section 3 of this Contract.

2. Quality Improvement (QI) Work Plan

- A. The Contractor shall have a Quality Improvement (QI) Work Plan covering the current Contract cycle with documented annual evaluations and documented revisions as needed. The QI Work Plan shall include:
 - 1) Evidence of the monitoring activities including:
 - i. Maintaining, and reviewing member grievances, appeals, expedited appeals, State Hearings, expedited State Hearings, provider appeals, and clinical records reviews as required by 9 C.C.R. section 1810.440(a)(5) and 42 C.F.R. section 438.416(a) and under this Contract; and
 - ii. Performance measurement data monitoring the accessibility of services, as specified above in Exhibit A, Attachment 5, Section 1.D.2;
 - 2) Evidence that QI activities, including PIPs, have contributed to meaningful improvement in clinical care and member service;

Exhibit A – Attachment 5
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

- 3) A description of completed and in-process QI activities, including PIPs. The description shall include:
 - i. Monitoring efforts for previously identified issues, including tracking issues over time;
 - ii. Objectives, scope, and planned QI activities for each year; and,
 - iii. Targeted areas of improvement or change in service delivery or program design.
 - 4) A description of mechanisms the Contractor has implemented to assess the accessibility of services within its service delivery area (including the requirements defined under Exhibit A, Attachment 8, Section 2.B);
 - 5) Evidence of compliance with the requirements for cultural competence and language and format, as specified in Exhibit A, Attachment 7, Section 2, and Exhibit A, Attachment 11, Section 3;
 - 6) {Standalone DMC-ODS Contracts Only} For SFY 2026-27, a description of how the Contractor will integrate its SMHS and DMC-ODS QI Work Plans beginning January 1, 2027, pursuant to Behavioral Health Administrative Integration.
- B. The Contractor will submit its QI Work Plan to DHCS upon request, including in connection with any reporting under the Behavioral Health Services Act.

3. Quality Improvement (QI) Committee and Program

- A. The Contractor's QI program shall monitor the Contractor's service delivery system with the aim of improving the processes of providing care and better meeting the needs of its members.
- B. The Contractor shall establish a QI Committee to review the quality of covered services provided to members. The QI Committee shall recommend policy decisions; review and evaluate the results of QI activities, including PIPs; institute needed QI actions; ensure follow-up of QI processes; and document QI Committee meeting minutes regarding decisions and actions taken.
- C. The QI Program shall be accountable to the Contractor's Director. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.440(a)(1).)

Exhibit A – Attachment 5
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

- D. Operation of the QI program shall include substantial involvement by a mental health LPHA and/or an SUD LPHA, as applicable for the services covered under the Contract. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.440(a)(4).)
 - 1) {Integrated Contracts (DMC counties)} The Contractor's QI program must include substantial involvement by a mental health LPHA. The Contractor is encouraged, but not required, to include substantial involvement by an SUD LPHA.
- E. The Contractor's practitioners and providers, members who have accessed specialty mental health and/or SUD treatment services through the Contractor (as applicable for the covered services under this Contract), family members, legal representatives, or other persons similarly involved with members as described in 9 C.C.R. § 1810.440(a)(2)(A-C) shall be actively involved in the planning, design and execution of the QI Program.
- F. QI activities shall include:
 - 1) Collecting and analyzing data—including the data identified in Sections 1 and 2 of this Attachment—to measure against the goals or prioritized areas of improvement that have been identified;
 - 2) Identifying opportunities for improvement and deciding which opportunities to pursue;
 - 3) Identifying relevant committees internal or external to the Contractor to ensure appropriate exchange of information with the QI Committee;
 - 4) Obtaining input from providers, members and their family members in identifying barriers to delivery of clinical care and administrative services;
 - 5) Designing and implementing interventions for improving performance;
 - 6) Measuring effectiveness of the interventions; and
 - 7) Incorporating successful interventions into the Contractor's operations as appropriate.

4. External Quality Review

- A. The Contractor shall undergo annual, external independent reviews of the quality, timeliness, and access to the services covered under this Contract, which are conducted pursuant to Subpart E of Part 438 of the Code of Federal Regulations. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.350(a) and 438.320).

Exhibit A – Attachment 5
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

EQR shall include the minimum requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 438.358(b) and may be expanded to include additional activities as determined by DHCS, including those identified in 42 C.F.R. § 438.358(c).

- B. Among other data elements, the EQR protocol shall include review of (42 C.F.R. § 438.358):
- 1) Number of days to first service at appropriate level of care after referral.
 - 2) Existence of a 24/7 telephone access line with prevalent non-English language(s).
 - 3) Access to services with translation services in the prevalent non-English language(s).

5. Performance Improvement Projects

- A. The Contractor shall conduct a minimum of two PIPs per year, including any PIPs required by DHCS or CMS (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(a)). DHCS may require additional PIPs. One PIP shall focus on a clinical area and one on a non-clinical area. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(b)(1) and (d)(1).) Each PIP shall:
- 1) Be designed to achieve significant improvement, sustained over time, in health outcomes and member satisfaction; (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(d).)
 - 2) Include measurement of performance using objective quality indicators; (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(d)(2)(i).)
 - 3) Include implementation of interventions to achieve improvement in the access to and quality of care; (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(d)(2)(ii).)
 - 4) Include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the interventions based on the performance measures collected as part of the PIP; (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(d)(2)(iii).) and,
 - 5) Include planning and initiation of activities for increasing or sustaining improvement. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(d)(2)(iv).)
- B. The Contractor shall report the status and results of each PIP to the Department as requested, but not less than once per year. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(d)(3).)
- C. Each PIP shall be completed in a reasonable time period so as to generally allow information on the success of PIPs in the aggregate to produce new information on quality of care annually. (42 C.F.R. § 438.330(d)(3).)

Exhibit A – Attachment 5
{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

6. Practice Guidelines

- A. The Contractor shall adopt practice guidelines. (42 C.F.R. § 438.236(b) and 9 C.C.R. § 1810.326)
- B. Such guidelines shall meet the following requirements (42 C.F.R. § 438.236(b):
 - 1) They are based on valid and reliable clinical evidence or a consensus of health care professionals in the applicable field;
 - 2) They consider the needs of the members;
 - 3) They are adopted in consultation with network providers; and
 - 4) They are reviewed and updated periodically as appropriate.
- C. The Contractor shall disseminate the guidelines to all affected providers and, upon request, to members and potential members. (42 C.F.R. § 438.236(c).)
- D. The Contractor shall take steps to assure that decisions for utilization management, member education, coverage of services, and any other areas to which the guidelines apply shall be consistent with the guidelines. (42 C.F.R. § 438.236(d).)

**Exhibit A – Attachment 6
UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT AND PARITY**

1. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Utilization Management

- A. The Contractor shall operate a Utilization Management Program that is responsible for assuring that members have appropriate access to covered services as required in this Contract.
- B. The Utilization Management Program shall evaluate:
 - 1) that services are medically necessary in accordance with the definition of “medical necessity” in Exhibit E, Attachment 1;
 - 2) the appropriateness and efficiency of services provided to Medi-Cal members prospectively or retrospectively;
 - 3) {DMC-ODS only} that the ASAM Criteria shall be used to determine placement into the appropriate level of care for SUD services; and
 - 4) that the interventions are appropriate for the diagnosis and level of care.
- C. Compensation to individuals or entities that conduct utilization management activities must not be structured so as to provide incentives for the individual or entity to deny, limit, or discontinue medically necessary services to any member. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(e).)
- D. The Contractor may place appropriate limits on a service based on criteria applied under the State Plan, such as criteria for access to covered services and for the purpose of utilization control, provided that:
 - 1) The services furnished are sufficient in amount, duration and scope to reasonably achieve the purpose for which the services are furnished. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(a)(4)(ii)(A).)
 - 2) The Contractor shall not arbitrarily deny or reduce the amount, duration, or scope of a medically necessary covered service solely because of diagnosis, type of illness, or condition of the member. (42 C.F.R. Section 438.210(a)(3)(ii)) The Contractor may deny services based on W&I Code §§ 14184.402, subdivisions (a), (c), and (d); 14059.5; and departmental guidance and regulation. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(a)(4)(i).)
 - 3) The Contractor shall not avoid costs for services covered under this Contract by referring members to other publicly supported health care resources.
 - 4) The services supporting individuals with ongoing or chronic conditions are authorized in a manner that reflects the member’s ongoing need for such services and supports.

**Exhibit A – Attachment 6
UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT AND PARITY**

- E. The Contractor shall have a documented system for collecting, maintaining and evaluating accessibility to care, including tracking:
- 1) The number of days to first covered service at an appropriate level of care following initial request or referral for all covered services;
 - 2) Whether a member was delayed access to care due to an insufficient number of providers able to provide services and, how long such a member was delayed access to care; and
 - 3) The number, percentage of denied, and timeliness of requests for authorization for all covered services that are submitted, processed, approved, and denied.

2. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Service Authorization

- A. Contractor shall implement mechanisms to assure authorization decision standards are met in accordance with this Contract, as well as BHINs 22-016 and 22-017, or any subsequent Departmental notices issued to address parity in covered benefits subsequent to the effective date of this Contract, and any applicable state and federal regulations. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.210, 438.910(d).) The Contractor shall:
- 1) Have in place, and follow, written policies and procedures for processing requests for initial and continuing authorizations of services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(b)(1).) The Contractor shall define service authorization request in a manner that at least includes a member's request for the provision of a service. (42 C.F.R. § 431.201.)
 - 2) Have mechanisms in effect to ensure consistent application of review criteria for authorization decisions and shall consult with the requesting provider when appropriate. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(b)(2)(i-ii).)
 - 3) Have any decision to deny a service authorization request or to authorize a service in an amount, duration, or scope that is less than requested be made by a health care professional who has appropriate clinical expertise in addressing the member's behavioral health needs. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(b)(3).)
 - 4) Notify the requesting provider and give the member written notice of any decision by the Contractor to deny a service authorization request, or to authorize a service in an amount, duration, or scope that is less than requested. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(c)). The member's notice shall meet the requirements in Exhibit A Attachment 12, Section 1, and any applicable state and federal law.

**Exhibit A – Attachment 6
UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT AND PARITY**

- B. {SMHS only} Additional Service Authorization Requirements
- 1) Except as provided below, the Contractor shall comply with the authorization requirements and timeframes in BHINs 22-016 and 22-017 and any subsequent Departmental notices issued to address parity in mental health and SUD benefits, as well as any applicable state and federal regulations. (42 C.F.R. § 438.910(d).)
 - 2) For outpatient SMHS that are subject to prior authorization, the following timelines apply, notwithstanding BHIN 22-016:
 - i. The Contractor shall make a decision regarding a provider's request for prior authorization as expeditiously as the member's mental health condition requires, not to exceed five business days from Contractor's receipt of the information reasonably necessary and requested by the Contractor to make the determination, not to exceed the time limits below. This timeframe may not be extended.
 - a. Until December 31, 2025, the decision shall be made within 14 calendar days following Contractor's receipt of the request for service. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(d)(1)(i)(A).)
 - b. Effective January 1, 2026, the decision shall be made within 7 calendar days following the Contractor's receipt of the request for service. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(d)(1)(i)(B).)
 - ii. For cases in which a provider indicates, or the Contractor determines, that following the standard timeframe could seriously jeopardize the member's life or health or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function, the Contractor shall make an expedited authorization decision and provide notice as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires and no later than 72 hours after receipt of the request for service. This timeframe may not be extended. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(d)(2))
 - 3) Among other requirements, the Contractor shall not require prior authorization for an emergency admission for psychiatric inpatient hospital services, whether the admission is voluntary or involuntary. (BHIN 22-017; See 9 C.C.R. § 1820.200(d)).
 - 4) [Reserved]
- C. {DMC-ODS only} Additional Service Authorization Requirements:

**Exhibit A – Attachment 6
UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT AND PARITY**

- 1) The Contractor shall provide prior authorization for residential and inpatient services within 24 hours of the prior authorization request being submitted by the provider. (BHIN 24-001.)
- 2) Prior authorization is prohibited for non-residential, non-inpatient DMC-ODS services. (BHIN 24-001.)

3. Parity in Mental Health and SUD Benefits

- A. The Contractor shall not impose financial requirements or quantitative treatment limitations, as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.900, for any member receiving covered services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.910(b), 438.920(a); BHIN 22-070.)
- B. The Contractor shall not impose aggregate lifetime or annual dollar limits, as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.900, for any member receiving covered services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.905(a), (b).)
- C. The Contractor shall not impose non-quantitative treatment limitations for covered services, as defined in 42 C.F.R. Part 438, Subpart K, in any benefit classification (i.e., inpatient and outpatient) unless the Contractor's policies and procedures have been determined by the Department to comply with Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 438, subpart K. (42 C.F.R. § 438.910(d).)
- D. The Contractor shall submit to the Department, upon request, any policies and procedures or other documentation necessary for the State to establish and demonstrate compliance with Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 438, subpart K, regarding parity in mental health and SUD benefits. Contractor shall, at a minimum, submit such documentation at the time it enters into this Contract with DHCS and any time there has been a significant change in the Contractor's operations that would affect parity, including changes in a quantitative treatment limitation or non-quantitative treatment limitation on a covered SMHS or SUD benefit. Such documentation shall be subject to DHCS approval pursuant to paragraph C of this section.

Exhibit A – Attachment 7

{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

1. Member Eligibility & Enrollment

- A. Medi-Cal members in Contractor's county are automatically enrolled with Contractor for purposes of covered services. (1915(b) waiver, § A, part I, para. C, p. 31.)
- B. The Contractor shall be responsible for providing or arranging and paying for covered services for Medi-Cal eligible individuals in its county who require an assessment or meet criteria for access to SMHS and/or SUD services, as applicable. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.228.)
 - 1) The Contractor shall accept these individuals in the order in which they are referred (including self-referral) without restriction (unless authorized by CMS), up to the limits set under this Contract. (42 C.F.R. § 438.3(d)(1).)
 - 2) The Contractor or its contracted provider shall verify the Medicaid eligibility determination of an individual. When the contracted provider conducts the initial eligibility verification, that verification shall be reviewed and approved by the Contractor prior to payment for services.
- C. The Contractor shall not, on the basis of health status or need for health care services, discriminate against Medi-Cal eligible individuals in its county who require an assessment or meet criteria for access to SMHS and/or SUD treatment services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.3(d)(3).)
- D. The Contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate against Medi-Cal eligible individuals in its county who require an assessment or meet criteria for access to SMHS or SUD treatment services on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religion, marital status, ethnic group identification, ancestry, age, medical condition, genetic information, mental disability, or physical disability, and will not use any policy or practice that has the effect of discriminating on the basis of any of these protected traits. (42 U.S.C. § 18116; 42 C.F.R. § 438.3(d)(4); 45 C.F.R. § 92.2; Gov. Code § 11135(a); W&I Code § 14727(a)(3).)

2. Cultural Competence

- A. The Contractor shall participate in the State's efforts to promote the delivery of services in a culturally competent manner to all members, including those with limited English proficiency and diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, and regardless of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. (42 C.F.R. § 438.206(c)(2).)

Exhibit A – Attachment 7

{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

- B. The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Contractor's Cultural Competence Plan, which shall be submitted to and approved by the Department in accordance with applicable Department guidance.
- 1) {Integrated Contracts (DMC-ODS and DMC counties)} Members with Co-Occurring Behavioral Health Needs
 - i. {Integrated Contracts (DMC-ODS counties)} The Contractor shall develop a single Cultural Competence Plan that addresses both individuals with SMHS needs and individuals with SUD needs, and that describes strategies to ensure access to coordinated and culturally responsive care for members with co-occurring behavioral health needs.
 - ii. {Integrated Contracts (DMC counties)} The Contractor's Cultural Competence Plan shall describe strategies to ensure access to coordinated and culturally responsive care for members with co-occurring behavioral health needs in components (1), (2) and (4) of subdivision (c) of title 9, California Code of Regulations Section 1810.410.
 - a. The Contractor is encouraged, but not required, to develop an integrated Cultural Competence Plan that addresses individuals with SUD needs to the same extent as individuals with SMHS needs in components (1), (2) and (4) of subdivision (c) of title 9, California Code of Regulations Section 1810.410.
 - 2) The Contractor shall update the Cultural Competence Plan and submit these updates to the Department for review and approval annually. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.410, subds. (c)-(d).)
 - 3) The Department shall act promptly to review the Contractor's Cultural Competence Plan submitted pursuant to 9 C.C.R. section 1810.410. The Department shall provide a Notice of Approval or a Notice of Disapproval, including the reasons for the disapproval, to the Contractor within 60 calendar days after receipt of the plan from the Contractor. If the Department fails to provide a Notice of Approval or Disapproval, the Contractor may implement the plan 60 calendar days from its submission to the Department.
- C. The Contractor shall ensure that its contracted providers are responsible to provide culturally competent services.
- 1) Providers shall ensure that their policies, procedures, and practices are consistent with the principles outlined and are embedded in the

Exhibit A – Attachment 7**{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES**

organizational structure, as well as being upheld in day-to-day operations.

- 2) To ensure equal access to quality care by diverse populations, each contracted provider receiving funds under this Contract shall adopt the federal Office of Minority Health Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service (CLAS) national standards (Document 3V) and comply with 42 C.F.R. section 438.206(c)(2).

3. Out-of-Network Services

A. If the Contractor's provider network is unable to provide medically necessary covered services to a particular member within the time, distance, and timely access standards under this Contract, the Contractor shall allow the member to access the services and adequately and timely cover the services out-of-network, for as long as the Contractor's provider network is unable to provide them and in accordance with state and federal law, this Contract, and Department information notices, including BHIN 21-008, and any subsequent notices. (42 C.F.R. § 438.206(b)(4).)

- 1) {SMHS only} The Contractor shall comply with the requirements of 9 CCR section 1830.220 regarding providing members access to out-of-network providers when a provider is available in Contractor's network.
- 2) {DMC-ODS only} Additional requirement for DMC-ODS residential services. The requirements in paragraph A apply with respect to each ASAM level of care that is covered by Contractor and medically necessary for a given member.

B. In cases where an out-of-network provider is not available within the time and distance standards (BHIN 24-020; BHIN 22-031; BHIN 21-008):

- 1) Contractor shall arrange for telehealth with an out-of-network provider consistent with BHIN 23-018, or shall coordinate transportation to an in-person visit if telehealth is clinically inappropriate or if the member requests an in-person visit. Contractor shall coordinate transportation with member's Managed Care Plan (MCP) or, for members not enrolled with an MCP, with DHCS by contacting DHCSNMT@dhcs.ca.gov.
- 2) Contractor shall ensure that services rendered by out-of-network providers, including those provided within a Department approved alternative access standard, comply with timely access standards.

C. The Contractor shall require that out-of-network providers coordinate authorization and payment with the Contractor. The Contractor must

Exhibit A – Attachment 7**{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES**

ensure that the cost to the member for services provided out-of-network pursuant to an authorization is no greater than it would be if the services were furnished within the Contractor's network, consistent with 9 C.C.R. section 1810.365. (42 C.F.R. § 438.206(b)(5).)

- D. [Reserved]
- E. Pursuant to Department guidance, the Contractor shall submit to the Department for approval policies and procedures regarding authorization of out-of-network services to establish compliance with parity requirements in 42 C.F.R. section 438.910(d)(3), including as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 6, Section 3.

4. {SMHS only} Foster Children Placed Out-of-County

The Contractor shall authorize, pay, provide or arrange for medically necessary specialty mental health services for foster children placed outside of their counties of origin in accordance with W&I Code sections 14717.1 and 14717.2 and pursuant to Department information notices. The Contractor shall follow Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (MHSUDS) IN 17-032, 18-027, BHIN 24-025, and any subsequent guidance or standardized templates that the Contractor may use or adapt to the Contractor's needs.

5. {SMHS only} Children in Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) and Kinship Guardian Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP)

- A. The Contractor shall provide or arrange for the provision of medically necessary specialty mental health services to a child in the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) residing within their adoptive parents' county of residence in the Contractor's county. These services are to be provided in the same way as the Contractor would provide services to any other child for whom the Contractor's county is listed as the county of responsibility on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). When treatment authorization requests are required, the Contractor shall be responsible for submitting treatment authorization requests to the mental health plan in the child's county of origin. (W&I Code § 16125.)
- B. The Contractor shall provide or arrange for the provision of medically necessary specialty mental health services to a child in the Kinship-Guardian Assistance Program (Kin-GAP) residing within their legal guardian's county of residence in the Contractor's county. These services are to be provided in the same way that the Contractor would provide services to any other child for whom the Contractor county is listed as the county of responsibility on the MEDS. When treatment authorization requests are required, the Contractor shall be responsible for submitting

Exhibit A – Attachment 7**{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES**

treatment authorization requests to the mental health plan in the child's county of origin. (W&I Code § 11376.)

- C. When the Contractor is the mental health plan in the county of origin for a child in AAP residing out-of-county with their adoptive parents (W&I Code § 16125) or a child in Kin-GAP residing out-of-county with their legal guardian (W&I Code § 11376) the Contractor shall be responsible for authorization and reauthorization of services for the child utilizing an expedited treatment authorization process that meets the authorization requirements set forth in MHSUDS Information Notice 22-016 and any applicable Departmental notices issued after the effective date of this Contract.
- D. The Contractor shall comply with timelines specified in 9 C.C.R. § 1830.220(b)(4)(A)(1-3) and requirements set forth in MHSUDS Information Notice 22-016 and any applicable Departmental notices issued after the effective date of this Contract, when processing or submitting authorization requests for children in AAP, or Kin-GAP, living outside their county of origin.

6. American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Members

- A. Choice of provider. The Contractor shall permit AI/AN members to obtain covered services from certified IHCPs, including out-of-network IHCPs. (42 C.F.R. § 438.14(b)(4); BHINs 22-020 (SMHS) and 22-053 (DMC-ODS).)
 - 1) The Contractor shall permit an out-of-network IHCP to refer an Indian member to a network provider. (42 C.F.R. § 438.14(b)(6).)
 - 2) The Contractor is not obligated to pay for services provided to non-AI/AN members by out-of-network IHCPs.
- B. The Contractor shall demonstrate it has sufficient IHCPs participating in its provider network to ensure timely access to services available under the Contract from such providers for AI/AN members who are eligible to receive services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.14(b)(1).) The Contractor shall document good-faith efforts to contract with all IHCPs in the Contractor's county, in accordance with the Department's latest guidance on network adequacy certifications. (BHINs 22-020 and 22-053.)

7. Choice of Provider

The Contractor shall provide each member a choice of the person providing services to the extent possible and appropriate. (42 C.F.R. § 438.3(l); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 1830.225).

Exhibit A – Attachment 7

{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

8. 24/7 Access Line

A. 24/7 Access Line Services

- 1) {Integrated Contracts (DMC-ODS or DMC)} The Contractor shall maintain a 24/7 toll-free number that current or prospective members may call seeking access to SMHS and/or SUD services. The Contractor must maintain and publicize a single telephone number that supports access to both SMHS and DMC-ODS services.
- 2) {Standalone SMHS or DMC-ODS} The Contractor shall maintain a 24/7 toll-free number that current or prospective members may call seeking access to covered services.

B. The Contractor shall publish information about the access line on the Contractor's web page, on all information brochures, and prevention materials in all threshold languages.

C. The Contractor's access line shall provide oral and audio-logical (TTY/TDY) translations in the member's primary language.

D. The access line shall provide 24/7 referrals to services for urgent conditions and medical emergencies.

9. Second Opinions

A. The Contractor shall provide second opinions from a network provider, or arrange for the member to obtain a second opinion outside the network, at no cost to the member. (42 C.F.R § 438.206(b)(3).)

B. At the request of a member, when the Contractor or its network provider has determined that the member is not entitled to SMHS due to not meeting the criteria for access to SMHS, the Contractor shall provide for a second opinion by a licensed mental health professional (other than a psychiatric technician or a licensed vocational nurse).

10. Minor Consent

A. Minors who are 12 years of age or older do not need parent, legal guardian, or Authorized Representative consent to access medical care and counseling relating to the diagnosis and treatment of a drug- or alcohol-related problem, with the exception of replacement narcotic therapy, pursuant to Family Code section 6929.

B. A minor who is 16 years of age or older does not need parent, legal guardian, or Authorized Representative consent to receive medications for opioid use disorder from a licensed narcotic treatment program as

Exhibit A – Attachment 7

{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

replacement narcotic therapy pursuant to Family Code section 6929, only if, and to the extent that, it is permitted by federal law.

- C. A minor who is 12 years of age or older may consent to mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis if the minor, in the opinion of the attending professional person, is mature enough to participate intelligently in the outpatient services, subject to the parameters in Family Code section 6924 and BHIN 24-046.
- D. Contractor must ensure access to the minor consent services described above without requiring prior authorization, from any contracted provider if the member is otherwise eligible to receive such services and the provider is otherwise eligible and certified to provide them.
- E. Contractor must ensure members are informed of the availability of these services, including informing the minor whether or not they may consent on their own behalf.

Exhibit A – Attachment 8
PROVIDER NETWORK, CONTRACTED PROVIDERS, AND TIMELY ACCESS

1. {SMHS and/or DMC-ODS only} Provider Enrollment and Screening

- A. The Contractor shall ensure that all network providers are enrolled with the state as Medi-Cal providers consistent with the provider disclosure, screening, and enrollment requirements of 42 C.F.R. part 455, subparts B and E. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(b).) This provision does not require the network provider to render services to Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service members.
- B. {SMHS only} The Contractor may execute network provider agreements, pending the outcome of screening, enrollment, and revalidation, of up to 120 days but must terminate a network provider immediately upon determination that the network provider cannot be enrolled, or the expiration of one 120-day period without enrollment of the provider, and notify affected members. (42 C.F.R. § 438.602(b)(2).)
- C. {DMC-ODS only} The Contractor shall contract only with providers that, prior to the furnishing of services under this Contract, have enrolled with, or revalidated their current enrollment with, DHCS as a DMC-certified provider under applicable federal and state regulations.

2. Assessment of Capacity

- A. The Contractor shall implement mechanisms to assess the capacity of service delivery for its members. This includes monitoring the number, type, and geographic distribution of mental health and SUD services within the Contractor's delivery system.
- B. The Contractor shall implement mechanisms to assess the accessibility of services within its service delivery area. This shall include the assessment of responsiveness of the Contractor's 24-hour toll-free telephone number (as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 7, Section 8), timeliness of scheduling routine appointments, timeliness of services for urgent conditions, and access to after-hours care.
 - 1) Subject to DHCS provider enrollment and certification requirements, the Contractor shall maintain continuous availability and accessibility of covered services and facilities, service sites, and personnel to provide the covered services. Such services shall not be limited due to budgetary constraints.
 - 2) When a member makes a request for covered services, the Contractor shall require services to be initiated with reasonable promptness in accordance with the timely access standards defined below in Section 4. Contractor shall have a documented system for monitoring and evaluating the quality, appropriateness, and accessibility of care, including a system for addressing problems that develop regarding waiting times and appointments.

Exhibit A – Attachment 8

PROVIDER NETWORK, CONTRACTED PROVIDERS, AND TIMELY ACCESS

- C. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} The Contractor shall ensure that in planning for the provision of covered services, the following barriers to services are considered and addressed:
- 1) Lack of educational materials or other resources for the provision of services.
 - 2) Geographic isolation and transportation needs of persons seeking services or remoteness of services.
 - 3) Institutional, cultural, and/or ethnicity barriers.
 - 4) Language differences.
 - 5) Lack of service advocates.
 - 6) Failure to survey or otherwise identify the barriers to service accessibility.
 - 7) Needs of persons with a disability.

3. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Network Adequacy

- A. The Contractor shall ensure that all services covered under this Contract are available and accessible to members in a timely manner and without utilizing waitlists. (42 C.F.R. § 438.206(a)).
- B. The Contractor shall maintain and monitor a network of appropriate providers that is supported by written agreements and that is sufficient to provide adequate access to all services covered under this Contract for all members, including those with limited English proficiency or physical or mental disabilities. (42 C.F.R. § 438.206(b)(1).) In establishing and monitoring the network, the Contractor shall document the following:
- 1) The anticipated number of Medi-Cal eligible members.
 - 2) The expected utilization of services, taking into account the characteristics of mental health and SUD treatment needs of members.
 - 3) The expected number and types of providers in terms of training and experience needed to meet expected utilization.
 - 4) The number of network providers who are not accepting new members.
 - 5) The geographic location of providers and their accessibility to members, considering distance, travel time, means of

Exhibit A – Attachment 8
PROVIDER NETWORK, CONTRACTED PROVIDERS, AND TIMELY ACCESS

transportation ordinarily used by Medi-Cal members, and physical access for disabled members.

- C. The Contractor shall ensure that network providers provide physical access, reasonable accommodations, and accessible equipment for Medi-Cal members with physical or mental disabilities. (42 C.F.R. § 438.206(b)(1) and (c)(3).)
- D. The Contractor shall adhere to, in all geographic areas within the county, the network adequacy standards for adult and pediatric mental health and SUD providers developed by the Department to implement 42 C.F.R. sections 438.68, 438.206, and 438.207, including time and distance standards, timely access, capacity and composition standards, and other network capacity requirements, as specified in state law (including W&I Code § 14197) and the Department's current guidance regarding network adequacy certifications. (42 C.F.R. § 438.68(a), (b)(1)(iii) and (b)(3), 438.206(a); W&I Code § 14197.)
- E. If Contractor cannot meet the time or distance standards in W&I Code section 14197, subdivisions (b) or (c), Contractor shall submit to the Department a request for Alternate Access Standards. (W&I Code § 14197, subd. (f)(3).) The Department will evaluate requests and grant appropriate exceptions as specified in the Department's current guidance regarding network adequacy certifications. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.68(a) & (d), 438.206(a); W&I Code § 14197(f).)

4. Timely Access

- A. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} In accordance with 42 C.F.R. section 438.206(c)(1), the Contractor shall:
 - 1) Meet, and require network providers to meet, the standards for timely access to care and services, without utilizing waitlists and taking into account the urgency of need for services, pursuant to W&I Code section 14197, subdivision (d), and as specified in the Department's current guidance regarding timely access, BHIN 24-020, or any successor guidance.
 - 2) Require network providers to have hours of operation during which services are provided to Medi-Cal members that are no less than the hours of operation during which the provider offers services to non-Medi-Cal members. If the provider only serves Medi-Cal members, the Contractor shall require that hours of operation are comparable to the hours the provider makes available for Medi-Cal services that are not covered by the Contractor, or another county behavioral health program delivery system.

Exhibit A – Attachment 8

PROVIDER NETWORK, CONTRACTED PROVIDERS, AND TIMELY ACCESS

- 3) Make services available to members 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, when medically necessary.
 - 4) Establish mechanisms to ensure that network providers comply with the timely access requirements;
 - 5) Monitor network providers regularly to determine compliance with timely access requirements;
 - 6) Take corrective action if a network provider fails to comply with timely access requirements.
- B. {DMC only} Timely Access. The Contractor shall establish, comply with, and report on Timely Access Standards, Alternative Access Standards (AAS), and Telehealth Services in accordance with requirements set forth in BHIN 22-070, and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 22-070.
- C. The applicable waiting time for a particular appointment may be extended at the member's request if the following conditions are met:
- 1) The member's medical record notes that waiting will not have a detrimental impact on the member's health, as determined by the referring or treating licensed health care provider, or by the health professional providing triage or screening services, who is acting within the scope of their practice consistent with professionally recognized standards of practice;
 - 2) The provider's decision to extend the applicable waiting time is noted in the member's medical record and made available to DHCS upon request; and
 - 3) Contractor ensures that the member receives notice of the provider's decision to extend the applicable waiting time with an explanation of the member's right to file a grievance disputing the extension. (W&I Code § 14197, subd. (d)(1)(A); Health & Safety Code § 1367.03, subd. (a)(5)(H); 28 C.C.R. § 1300.67.2.2(c)(5)(H); BHIN 22-073.)
- D. Contractor must ensure that its contracted providers and subcontractors participate in all timely access survey(s) and network adequacy activities conducted by DHCS or its contractors. Contractor must include language to this effect in any new or amended network provider or subcontractor agreements executed after the effective date of this Contract.

Exhibit A – Attachment 8
PROVIDER NETWORK, CONTRACTED PROVIDERS, AND TIMELY ACCESS

5. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Documentation of Network Adequacy

- A. The Contractor shall give assurances to the Department and provide supporting documentation that demonstrates Contractor has the capacity to serve the expected utilization in its service area in accordance with BHIN 24-020, and subsequent guidance issued by the Department. (42 C.F.R. § 438.207(a); W&I Code § 14197(f).)
- B. The Contractor shall submit documentation to the Department, as specified in BHIN 24-020 and any subsequent guidance issued by the Department, to demonstrate that it complies with the following requirements:
 - 1) Offers an appropriate range of covered services that are adequate for the anticipated number of members for the service area.
 - 2) Maintains a network of providers that is sufficient in number, mix, and geographic distribution to meet the needs of the anticipated number of members in the service area. (42 C.F.R. § 438.207(b).)
- C. The Contractor shall submit the documentation at the times specified in BHIN 24-020 and any subsequent guidance issued by the Department, but no less frequently than the following (42 C.F.R. § 438.207(c)):
 - 1) At the time it enters into this Contract with the Department;
 - 2) On an annual basis; and
 - 3) Within 10 business days of a significant change in the Contractor's operations that would render the Contractor non-compliant with standards for network adequacy and capacity including, but not limited to, the following types of changes:
 - i. Changes in services;
 - ii. Changes in benefits;
 - iii. Changes in geographic service area;
 - iv. Changes in the composition of or payments to the Contractor's provider network; or
 - v. Enrollment of a new population in the Contractor's county.
- D. The Contractor is required to notify DHCS by email of one of the above-listed changes at MHSDFinalRule@dhcs.ca.gov. The Contractor shall include details regarding the change and the Contractor's plans to ensure members continue to have access to adequate services and providers.

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- E. 274 Provider Network Data Reporting
 - 1) The Contractor is required to submit provider network data to DHCS using the 274 standard on a monthly basis between the 1st and 10th of each month. (42 C.F.R. § 438.207(a))
 - 2) The Contractor shall complete data submissions pursuant to DHCS BHIN 24-020 and BHIN 22-032 and any subsequent guidance issued by the Department.
- 6. **[Reserved]**
- 7. **{SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Provider Selection**
 - A. The Contractor shall have and implement written policies and procedures for selection and retention of network providers to provide covered services that at a minimum meet the requirements of 42 C.F.R. section 438.214. These policies and procedures shall apply equally to all providers regardless of public, private, for-profit or non-profit status.
 - 1) The Contractor shall select the qualified providers to establish its provider networks, except as otherwise provided in this Contract (e.g., IHCPs as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 7, Section 6).
 - B. The Contractor's policies and procedures for selection and retention of providers must not discriminate against particular providers that serve high-risk populations or specialize in conditions that require costly treatment. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.12(a)(2), 438.214(c).)
 - C. In all contracts with network providers, the Contractor must follow the Department's uniform credentialing and re-credentialing policy, including the policy that addresses behavioral and substance use disorders, outlined in DHCS Information Notice 18-019. The Contractor must follow a documented process for credentialing and re-credentialing of network providers. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.12(a)(2), 438.214(b).)
 - D. The Contractor shall not employ or contract with providers excluded from participation in Federal health care programs under either section 1128 or section 1128A of the Social Security Act. (42 C.F.R. § 438.214(d).)
 - E. The Contractor may not discriminate in the selection, reimbursement, or indemnification of any provider who is acting within the scope of their license or certification under applicable state law, solely on the basis of that license or certification. (42 C.F.R. § 438.12(a)(1).)
 - F. The Contractor shall give providers that apply to be network providers and with whom the Contractor decides not to contract written notice of the reason for a decision not to contract. (42 C.F.R. § 438.12(a)(1).)

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- G. This section, may not be construed to:
- 1) Require the Contractor to contract with providers beyond the number necessary to meet the needs of its members;
 - 2) Preclude the Contractor from using different reimbursement amounts for different specialties or for different practitioners in the same specialty; or
 - 3) Preclude the Contractor from establishing measures that are designed to maintain quality of services and control costs and are consistent with its responsibilities to members. (42 C.F.R. § 438.12(b).)
- H. Upon request, the Contractor shall demonstrate to the Department that its providers are credentialed as required by this Contract. (42 C.F.R. § 438.206(b)(6).)
- I. The Contractor shall only use licensed, registered, certified, or waived providers, in good standing and acting within their scope of practice, for services that require a license, registration, certification, or waiver. This includes
- 1) Individuals with a Mental Health Professional Licensure Waiver in accordance with BHIN 24-033 or any subsequent departmental guidance; and
 - 2) Clinical social worker (CSW), marriage and family therapist (MFT), and professional clinical counselor (PCC) candidates who have submitted their applications for associate registration to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) within 90 days of their degree award date and are completing supervised experience toward licensure to provide SMHS, DMC-ODS and DMC services to Medi-Cal members, in accordance with BHIN 24-023 and any subsequent departmental guidance.
 - i. CSW, MFT, and PCC candidates must act within their scopes of practice under California law. Contractor must obtain and maintain documentation to verify that the candidate's BBS application has been submitted and is pending and must subsequently verify that the registration is approved.
 - ii. Services rendered by CSW, MFT, and PCC candidates completing supervised experience can be reimbursed while their BBS application is pending. In the event the BBS

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application is not approved by BBS, the services provided by the candidate are not Medi-Cal reimbursable.

- J. {SMHS only} The Contractor shall establish individual, group and organizational provider selection criteria for network providers as provided for in 9 C.C.R. section 1810.435(a).
- K. {DMC-ODS only} Additional requirements applicable to providers that furnish DMC-ODS services:
- 1) The Contractor may contract only with DMC-certified providers to provide DMC-ODS services. DMC-certified providers that do not receive a contract with Contractor to provide DMC-ODS services cannot receive a direct contract with the State to provide DMC-ODS services to residents of DMC-ODS Counties.
 - 2) The Contractor shall only select providers that have an SUD Medical Director who, prior to the delivery of services under this Contract, has enrolled with DHCS under applicable state regulations, has been screened in accordance with 42 C.F.R. section 455.450(a) as a “limited” categorical risk within a year prior to serving as a Medical Director under this Contract, and has signed a Medicaid provider agreement with DHCS as required by 42 C.F.R. section 431.107.
 - 3) [Reserved]
 - 4) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT): DMC-ODS network providers, at all levels of care, shall demonstrate that they comply with BHIN 23-054 and any subsequent guidance issued by the Department regarding the provision of, or referrals for, MAT, as well as the maintenance of a DHCS-approved MAT policy. The Contractor shall monitor the referral process or provision of MAT services.
 - 5) Evidence Based Practices (EBPs): The Contractor shall ensure that providers implement at least two of the following EBPs based on the timeline established in the county implementation plan. The two EBPs are per provider, per service modality. The Contractor shall ensure the providers have implemented EBPs and are delivering the practices to fidelity. The State shall monitor the implementation of EBPs during reviews. The EBPs include:
 - i. Motivational Interviewing: A member-centered, empathic, but directive counseling strategy designed to explore and reduce a person's ambivalence toward treatment. This approach

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frequently includes other problem solving or solution-focused strategies that build on members' past successes.

- ii. Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy: Based on the theory that most emotional and behavioral reactions are learned and that new ways of reacting and behaving can be learned.
- iii. Relapse Prevention: A behavioral self-control program that teaches individuals with substance addiction how to anticipate and cope with the potential for relapse. Relapse prevention can be used as a stand-alone substance use treatment program or as an aftercare program to sustain gains achieved during initial substance use disorder treatment.
- iv. Trauma-Informed Treatment: Services shall take into account an understanding of trauma, and place priority on trauma survivors' safety, choice and control.
- v. Psycho-Education: Psycho-educational groups are designed to educate members about substance misuse, and related behaviors and consequences. Psycho-educational groups provide information designed to have a direct application to members' lives, to instill self-awareness, suggest options for growth and change, identify community resources that can assist members in recovery, develop an understanding of the process of recovery, and prompt people using substances to take action on their own behalf.

8. {SMHS only} SMHS Provider Certification

- A. The Contractor shall comply with 9 C.C.R. section 1810.435, in the selection of providers.
- B. [Reserved]
- C. "Satellite site" means a site owned, leased or operated by an organizational provider at which SMHS are delivered to members fewer than 20 hours per week, or, if located at a multiagency site at which SMHS are delivered by no more than two employees or contractors of the provider.
- D. The Contractor shall certify, or use another SMHS program's certification documents to certify, the organizational providers that contract with the Contractor to provide covered services in accordance with 9 C.C.R. section 1810.435, and the requirements specified prior to the date on which the provider begins to deliver services under the Contract, and once

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every three years after that date. The on-site review required by 9 C.C.R. section 1810.435, subdivision (d), as a part of the certification process, shall be performed at any site owned, leased, or operated by the provider and/or used to deliver covered services to members, except that on-site review is not required for public school or satellite sites.

- E. The Contractor may allow an organizational provider to begin delivering covered services to members at a site subject to on-site review prior to the date of the on-site review, provided the site is operational and has any required fire clearances. The earliest date the provider may begin delivering covered services at a site subject to on-site review is the latest of these three (3) dates: 1) the date the provider's request for certification is received by the Department in accordance with the Contractor's certification procedures; 2) the date the site was operational; or 3) the date a required fire clearance was obtained. The Contractor shall complete any required on-site review of a provider's sites within six months of the date the provider begins delivering covered services to members at the site.
- F. The Contractor may allow an organizational provider to continue delivering covered services to members at a site subject to on-site review as part of the recertification process prior to the date of the on-site review, provided the site is operational and has any required fire clearances. The Contractor shall complete any required on-site review of a provider's sites within six months of the date the recertification of the provider is due.
- G. On-site reviews. The Contractor is responsible for conducting on-site reviews for their network providers, except that the Department shall conduct on-site reviews for all county-owned and operated providers. The on-site review shall verify that:
 - 1) The organizational provider possesses the necessary license to operate, if applicable, and any required certification.
 - 2) The space owned, leased or operated by the provider and used for services or staff meets local fire codes.
 - 3) The physical plant of any site owned, leased, or operated by the provider and used for services or staff is clean, sanitary, and in good repair.
 - 4) The organizational provider establishes and implements maintenance policies for any site owned, leased, or operated by the provider and used for services or staff to ensure the safety and well-being of members and staff.

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- 5) The organizational provider has a current administrative manual which includes: personnel policies and procedures, general operating procedures, service delivery policies, any required state or federal notices (DRA), and procedures for reporting unusual occurrences relating to health and safety issues.
- 6) The organizational provider maintains client records in a manner that meets the requirements of the Contractor, the requirements of Exhibit A, Attachment 10; Exhibit E, Section 4; Exhibit D, Section 7; and applicable state and federal standards.
- 7) The organizational provider has sufficient staff to allow the Contractor to claim federal financial participation (FFP) for the services that the organizational provider delivers to members, as described in 9 C.C.R. sections 1840.344 through 1840.358, as appropriate and applicable.
- 8) The organizational provider has written procedures for referring individuals to a psychiatrist when necessary, or to a physician, if a psychiatrist is not available.
- 9) The organizational provider's head or chief of service, as defined 9 C.C.R. sections 622 through 630, is a licensed mental health professional or other appropriate individual as described in these sections.
- 10) For organizational providers that provide or store medications, the provider stores and dispenses medications in compliance with all pertinent state and federal standards. In particular:
 - i. All drugs obtained by prescription are labeled in compliance with federal and state laws. Prescription labels are altered only by persons legally authorized to do so.
 - ii. Drugs intended for external use only and food stuffs are stored separately from drugs intended for internal use.
 - iii. All drugs are stored at proper temperatures: room temperature drugs at 59-86 degrees Fahrenheit and refrigerated drugs at 36-46 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - iv. Drugs are stored in a locked area with access limited to those medical personnel authorized to prescribe, dispense or administer medication.
 - v. Drugs are not retained after the expiration date.

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- vi. Intramuscular multi-dose vials are dated and initialed when opened.
 - vii. A drug log is maintained to ensure the provider disposes of expired, contaminated, deteriorated and abandoned drugs in a manner consistent with state and federal laws.
 - viii. Policies and procedures are in place for dispensing, administering and storing medications.
- H. For organizational providers that provide day treatment intensive or day rehabilitation, the provider has a written description of the day treatment intensive and/or day rehabilitation program that complies with Exhibit A, Attachment 2A, Section 4.
- I. When an on-site review of an organizational provider would not otherwise be required and the provider offers day treatment intensive and/or day rehabilitation, the Contractor or the Department, as applicable, shall, at a minimum, review the provider's written program description for compliance with the requirements of Exhibit A, Attachment 2A, Section 4.
- J. On-site review is required for hospital outpatient departments which are operating under the license of the hospital. Services provided by hospital outpatient departments may be provided either on the premises or off-site.
- K. On-site review is not required for primary care and psychological clinics, as defined in Health and Safety Code sections 1204 and 1204.1 and licensed under the Health and Safety Code. Services provided by the clinics may be provided on the premises in accordance with the conditions of the clinic's license.
- L. When on-site review of an organizational provider is required, the Contractor or the Department, as applicable, shall conduct an on-site review at least once every three years. Additional certification reviews of organizational providers may be conducted by the Contractor or Department, as applicable, at its discretion, if:
 - 1) The provider makes major staffing changes.
 - 2) The provider makes organizational and/or corporate structure changes (example: conversion to non-profit status).
 - 3) The provider adds day treatment or medication support services when medications are administered or dispensed from the provider site.

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- 4) There are significant changes in the physical plant of the provider site (some physical plant changes could require a new fire clearance).
- 5) There is a change of ownership or location.
- 6) There are complaints regarding the provider.
- 7) There are unusual events, accidents, or injuries requiring medical treatment for clients, staff or members of the community.

M. [Reserved]

N. Contractor may accept the certification of an SMHS provider by another SMHS program, or by the Department, in order to meet the Contractor's obligations under this section. However, regardless of any such delegation to a subcontracting entity or acceptance of a certification by another SMHS program, Contractor shall remain ultimately responsible for adequate performance of all duties and obligations under this Contract.

9. {DMC and DMC-ODS only} DMC Provider Certification and Monitoring

- A. DHCS shall certify eligible providers to participate in the DMC program.
- B. This certification shall be performed prior to the date on which the Contractor begins to deliver services under this Contract at any site.
- C. Perinatal Services. Contractor shall require that providers of perinatal DMC services are properly certified to provide these services and comply with the applicable requirements contained in:
 - 1) {DMC-ODS only} Exhibit A, Attachment 2C, Section 22.
 - 2) {DMC only} 22 C.C.R. section 51341.1 related to services for pregnant and postpartum women.
- D. Contracted Providers
 - 1) {DMC-ODS only} The Contractor shall require all the contracted providers of services to be licensed, registered, DMC certified and/or approved in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Contractor's provider contracts shall require that providers comply with all applicable regulations and guidelines, including:
 - i. 21 C.F.R. § 1300.01, et seq., 42, C.F.R., § 8.1 et seq.
 - ii. 22 C.C.R. § 51490(a).
 - iii. Exhibit A, Attachment 2C, Section 22.

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- iv. 9 C.C.R. § 10000, et seq.
 - v. 22 C.C.R. § 51000 et. seq.
 - vi. W&I Code § 14184.100 et seq.
- 2) {DMC only} The Contractor shall only use licensed, certified, registered, or waived providers, in good standing and acting within their scope of practice, for services that require a license, registration, certification, or waiver.. This includes
- i. Clinical social worker (CSW), marriage and family therapist (MFT), and professional clinical counselor (PCC) candidates who have submitted their applications for associate registration to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) within 90 days of their degree award date and are completing supervised experience toward licensure to provide SMHS, DMC-ODS and DMC services to Medi-Cal members, in accordance with BHIN 24-023 and any subsequent departmental guidance.
 - a. CSW, MFT, and PCC candidates must act within their scopes of practice under California law. Contractor must obtain and maintain documentation to verify that the candidate's BBS application has been submitted and is pending and must subsequently verify that the registration is approved.
 - b. Services rendered by CSW, MFT, and PCC candidates completing supervised experience can be reimbursed while their BBS application is pending. In the event the BBS application is not approved by BBS, the services provided by the candidate are not Medi-Cal reimbursable.
- E. The Contractor shall notify Provider Enrollment Division (PED) of an addition or change of information in a provider's pending DMC certification application within 35 days of receiving notification from the provider. The Contractor shall ensure that a new DMC certification application is submitted to PED reflecting the change.
- F. The Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that any reduction of covered services or relocations by providers are not implemented until the approval is issued by DHCS. Within 35 days of receiving notification of a provider's intent to reduce covered services or relocate, the Contractor shall submit, or require the provider to submit, a DMC certification

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application to PED. The DMC certification application shall be submitted to PED 60 days prior to the desired effective date of the reduction of covered services or relocation.

- G. {DMC-ODS only} The Contractor shall notify DHCS PED by e-mail at DHCSDMCRecert@dhcs.ca.gov within two business days of learning that a contracted provider's license, registration, certification, or approval to operate an SUD program or provide a covered service is revoked, suspended, modified, or not renewed by entities other than DHCS.

- 1) A provider's certification to participate in the DMC program shall automatically terminate if the provider, or its owners, officers or directors are convicted of Medi-Cal fraud, abuse, or malfeasance. For purposes of this section, a conviction shall include a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.

- H. Continued Certification

- 1) All DMC-certified providers shall be subject to continuing certification requirements at least once every five years. DHCS may allow the Contractor to continue delivering covered services to members at a site subject to on-site review by DHCS as part of the recertification process prior to the date of the on-site review, provided the site is operational, the certification remains valid, and has all required fire clearances.

- 2) DHCS may conduct unannounced certification and recertification on-site visits at clinics pursuant to W&I Code section 14043.7.

- I. {DMC only} Credentialing and Re-credentialing. The Contractor shall establish and comply with provider credentialing, re-credentialing, and attestation provisions in accordance with the requirements set forth in BHIN 22-070.

10. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Provider Disclosures.

- A. The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of 42 C.F.R. sections 455.104, 455.105, 1002.203 and 1002.3, which relate to the provision of information about provider business transactions and provider ownership and control, prior to entering into a contract and during certification or re-certification of the provider.

11. Termination of a Provider Contract

- A. The Contractor shall notify the Department of the termination of any contract with a contracted provider, and the basis for termination, within two business days.

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- B. The Contractor shall submit the notification using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS.
- C. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} The Contractor shall make a good faith effort to give written notice of the termination to each member who was seen on a regular basis by the terminated provider, as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 11, Section 2.B.

12. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Provider Member Communications

- A. The Contractor shall not prohibit nor otherwise restrict, a licensed, waived, or registered professional, as defined in Supplement 3 to Attachment 3.1-A, page 2i of the State Plan, or an LPHA, as defined in Exhibit E, Attachment 1, who is acting within the lawful scope of practice, from advising or advocating on behalf of a member for whom the provider is providing mental health and/or SUD services for any of the following:
 - 1) The member's health status, medical care, or treatment options, including any alternative treatment that may be self-administered;
 - 2) Information the member needs in order to decide among all relevant treatment options;
 - 3) The risks, benefits, and consequences of receiving treatment or not receiving treatment; and
 - 4) The member's right to participate in decisions regarding their health care, including the right to refuse treatment, and to express preferences about future treatment decisions. (42 C.F.R. § 438.102(a)(1).)

13. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Provider Notifications

- A. The Contractor shall inform contracted providers, at the time they enter into a contract, about:
 - 1) Member grievance, appeal, and State Hearing procedures and timeframes as specified in 42 C.F.R. sections 438.400 - 438.424.
 - 2) The member's right to file grievances and appeals, orally or in writing, and the requirements and timeframes for filing.
 - 3) The availability of assistance to the member with filing grievances and appeals.
 - 4) The member's right to give written consent to allow a provider, acting on behalf of the member, to file a grievance or appeal.

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- 5) The member's right to request a State Hearing after the Contractor has made a determination on a member's appeal, which is adverse to the member.
- 6) The member's right to request continuation of benefits that the Contractor seeks to reduce or terminate during an appeal or State Hearing filing, if filed within the allowable timeframes.
- 7) Any state-determined provider's appeal rights to challenge the failure of the Contractor to cover a service.

Exhibit A – Attachment 9
[RESERVED]

Exhibit A – Attachment 10
COORDINATION AND CONTINUITY OF CARE

1. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Coordination of Care

- A. The Contractor shall implement procedures to deliver care to and coordinate services for all of its members. (42 C.F.R. § 438.208(b).) These procedures shall meet Department requirements and shall do the following:
- 1) Ensure that each member has an ongoing source of care appropriate to their needs and a person or entity formally designated as primarily responsible for coordinating the services accessed by the member. The member shall be provided information on how to contact their designated person or entity. (42 C.F.R. § 438.208(b)(1).) Care Coordination can be provided in clinical or non-clinical settings and can be provided in person, by telehealth, or by telephone.
 - 2) Coordinate the services the Contractor furnishes to the member between settings of care and levels of treatment, including appropriate discharge planning for short term and long-term hospital and institutional stays. (42 C.F.R. § 438.208(b)(2)(i).)
 - i. Coordinate the services the Contractor furnishes to the member with the services the member receives from any other managed care organization, in FFS Medicaid, from community and social support providers, and other human services agencies used by its members to foster a member-centered and whole-person approach to wellness. (42 C.F.R. § 438.208(b)(2)(ii)-(iv), 9 C.C.R. § 1810.415.)
 - ii. Regarding discharge planning, coordinate with SMHS and SUD providers to support transitions between levels of care and to recovery resources, as well as appropriate referrals to providers of SMHS, SUD, primary care, or specialty medical services.
 - iii. Coordinate with ancillary services, including individualized connection, referral, and linkages to community-based services and supports including but not limited to educational, social, prevocational, vocational, housing, nutritional, criminal justice, transportation, childcare, child development, family/marriage education, cultural sources, and mutual aid support groups.
 - 3) The Contractor shall share with the Department or other managed care entities serving the member the results of any identification

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and assessment of that member's needs to prevent duplication of those activities. (42 C.F.R. § 438.208(b)(4).)

- 4) Ensure that each contracted provider maintains and shares, as appropriate, a member health record in accordance with professional standards. (42 C.F.R. § 438.208(b)(5).)
- 5) Ensure that, in the course of coordinating care, each member's privacy is protected in accordance with all federal and state privacy laws, including but not limited to 45 C.F.R. part 160 and 164, subparts A and E, and 42 C.F.R. Part 2, to the extent that such provisions are applicable. (42 C.F.R. § 438.208(b)(6).)
- 6) {DMC-ODS only} For members receiving SUD services, ensure that care coordination services are provided by an AOD Counselor, Clinical Trainee, LPHA, or Medical Assistant.

2. Screening and Assessment Period

- A. Consistent with the No Wrong Door policies set forth in W&I Code § 14184.402, BHIN 22-011, BHIN 22-065, and any related Department guidance, the Contractor must cover the assessment and any SMHS and/or SUD services provided during the assessment period for any member seeking care.
- B. As of the effective date identified by DHCS, the Contractor must use DHCS-approved standardized mental health screening tools set forth in DHCS guidance (including standardized screening tools specific for adults and standardized screening tools specific for children and youth) to ensure members seeking mental health services who are not currently receiving covered SMHS or NSMHS are referred to the appropriate delivery system for mental health services, either in the Contractor network or the Managed Care Plan network, in accordance with the No Wrong Door policies set forth in W&I Code § 14184.402(h).

3. Coordination with Managed Care Plans

- A. The Contractor shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any Medi-Cal managed care plan serving the Contractor's members. The Contractor shall ensure the components of the MOU comply with guidance issued by DHCS regarding MOU requirements. The Contractor shall monitor the effectiveness of its MOU with Medi-Cal managed care plans.

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B. {SMHS only} Additional requirements:

- 1) If a member eligible for SMHS is also eligible for NSMHS during the course of receiving covered SMHS, the Contractor shall continue to cover non-duplicative, Medically Necessary SMHS even if the Member is simultaneously receiving NSMHS.
- 2) The Contractor must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with any Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan that enrolls members receiving SMHS from Contractor to ensure Medically Necessary NSMHS and SMHS provided concurrently are coordinated and non-duplicative.
- 3) If a member is receiving covered SMHS and is determined to meet the criteria for NSMHS covered by Medi-Cal Fee For Service and Managed Care Plans as defined by W&I Code section 14184.402, the Contractor must use DHCS-approved standardized transition tools set forth in BHIN 22-065, and any other applicable DHCS guidance, as required when members who have established relationships with contracted mental health providers experience a change in condition requiring NSMHS. Likewise, if a member is receiving NSMHS and is determined to meet the access criteria for SMHS as defined by W&I Code section 14184.402, the Contractor must use DHCS-approved standardized transition tools set forth in BHIN 22-065, and any other applicable DHCS guidance as required when members who have established relationships with NSMHS providers experience a change in condition requiring SMHS. The Contractor must continue to cover the provision of medically necessary SMHS provided to a member who meets SMHS access criteria who is concurrently receiving NSMHS when those services are not duplicative and provide coordination of care with the Managed Care Plan.
- 4) The Contractor must develop and implement written policies and procedures to ensure that members meeting criteria for NSMHS, as indicated by a DHCS-approved standardized transition tool (including standardized transition tools specific for adults and standardized transition tools specific for children and youth), are referred to the Managed Care Plan or a Fee For Service provider offering NSMHS. Likewise, the Contractor must develop and implement written policies and procedures to ensure that members meeting access criteria for SMHS and as indicated by a DHCS-approved standardized transition tools (including standardized transition tools specific for adults and standardized transition tools

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specific for children and youth) are referred by the Managed Care Plan to the Contractor.

- 5) The Contractor shall notify the Department in writing if the Contractor is unable to enter into an MOU or if an MOU is terminated, providing a description of the Contractor's good faith efforts to enter into or maintain the MOU. Should a conflict arise between the parties to the MOU, the Contractor shall abide by the requirements in BHIN 23-056 and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 23-056. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.370.)

C. {DMC-ODS only} Additional requirements:

- 1) {All DMC-ODS programs except the DMC-ODS PHC Model} The Contractor must enter in an MOU with any Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan that enrolls members served by the DMC-ODS. The MOU requirements shall comply with BHIN 23-057 and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 23-057. In addition to any MOU requirements established in Department Information Notices or any other guidance, at a minimum the following elements in the MOU should be implemented at the point of care to ensure clinical integration between DMC-ODS and managed care providers:
- i. Comprehensive substance use, physical, and mental health screening, including ASAM Level 0.5 Screening Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment services.
 - ii. Member engagement and participation in an integrated care program as needed.
 - iii. Shared development of care plans by the member, caregivers, and all providers where applicable.
 - iv. Collaborative care planning with managed care where applicable.
 - v. Delineation of case management responsibilities.
 - vi. A process for resolving disputes between the Contractor and the Medi-Cal managed care plan that includes a means for members to receive medically necessary services while the dispute is being resolved.
 - vii. Availability of clinical consultation, including consultation on medications.

**Exhibit A – Attachment 10
COORDINATION AND CONTINUITY OF CARE**

- viii. Care coordination and effective communication among providers including procedures for exchanges of medical information.
 - ix. Navigation support for patients and caregivers.
 - x. Facilitation and tracking of referrals.
 - 2) {DMC-ODS PHC Model only} The Contractor shall require the subcontractor to include in its contracts with all network providers the elements listed above under paragraph 1. These elements should be implemented at the point of care to ensure clinical integration.
 - D. {DMC only} Additional Requirements: The MOU shall comply with BHIN 24-016 and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 24-016.
- 4. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Transition of Care**
- A. The Contractor shall implement a transition of care policy that is in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, MHSUD IN 18-059 (for SMHS), BHIN 23-001 (for DMC-ODS), and any BHINs issued by the Department for parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits subsequent to the effective date of this Contract (42 C.F.R. § 438.62(b)(1)-(2).) At a minimum, the Contractor shall provide the transition of care policy to members and potential members in the member handbook and member notices. (See Exhibit A, Attachment 11 Section 1.E.)

**Exhibit A – Attachment 11
INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Basic Requirements

- A. The Contractor shall provide information in a manner and format that is easily understood and readily accessible to members and potential members. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(c)(1)). The Contractor shall provide all written materials for members and potential members in easily understood language and format, using a font size no smaller than 12-point. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(d)(6)(i)-(ii)). Contractor shall make written materials available in alternative formats and through the provision of auxiliary aids and services in an appropriate manner that take into consideration the special needs of members and potential members with disabilities or limited English proficiency (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(d)(6)(iii)). The Contractor shall inform members that information is available in alternative formats and how to access those formats in compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.10(d)(3).
- B. The Contractor shall provide the required information in this section to each member when first receiving covered services and upon request. (CalAIM 1915(b) Waiver, § A, Part IV, Subsection B, Part 1 at p.78; 9 C.C.R. § 1810.360(e)).
- C. The Contractor shall operate a website that provides the content required in this section and complies with the requirements in 42 C.F.R. section 438.10.
- D. In the information provided to members, the Contractor shall use the Department developed definitions for key managed care terminology as set forth in this Contract (including Exhibit E) and the Department's template member handbook, including: appeal, excluded services, grievance, hospitalization, hospital outpatient care, medically necessary, network and out-of-network provider, physician services, plan, prior authorization, prescription drugs, primary care provider, provider, rehabilitation services, prescription drugs, and urgent care (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(c)(4)(i)).
- E. The Contractor shall use Department developed model member handbooks and member notices that describe the transition of care policies for members. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.10(c)(4)(ii) and 438.62(b)(3)).
- F. Member information required in this section may only be provided electronically by the Contractor if all of the following conditions are met:
 - 1) The format is readily accessible;
 - 2) The information is placed in a location on the Contractor's website that is prominent and readily accessible;

**Exhibit A – Attachment 11
INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

- i. {DMC-ODS PHC Model only} The information must be placed on both the Contractor's website and the subcontractor's website;
- 3) The information is provided in an electronic form which can be electronically retained and printed;
- 4) The information is consistent with the content and language requirements of this Attachment; and
- 5) The member is informed that the information is available in paper form without charge upon request and Contractor provides it upon request within 5 business days. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(c)(6)).
- G. The Contractor shall have in place mechanisms to help members and potential members understand the requirements and benefits of the plan. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(c)(7)).

2. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Information Provided to Members and Potential Members

- A. The Contractor shall provide information to members and potential members, either in paper or electronic format, including, at a minimum, all of the following:
 - 1) The basic features of managed care. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(ii)).
 - 2) The automatic BHDS enrollment process for Medi-Cal members (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(i) & (iii)).
 - 3) The service area covered by the Contractor. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(iv)).
 - 4) Covered benefits, including:
 - i. Which benefits are provided by the Contractor; and,
 - ii. Which, if any, benefits are provided directly by the State. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(v)).
 - 5) The provider directory and {for DMC-ODS only} formulary information. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(vi)).
 - 6) Any cost-sharing that will be imposed by the Contractor consistent with the California State Plan § 4.18. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(vii)).
 - 7) The requirements for the Contractor to provide adequate access to covered services, including the network adequacy standards

**Exhibit A – Attachment 11
INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

established in 42 C.F.R. section 438.68. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(viii)).

- 8) The Contractor's responsibilities for coordination of care. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(ix)).
 - 9) To the extent available, quality and performance indicators for the Contractor, including member satisfaction. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(e)(2)(x)).
- B. The Contractor shall make a good faith effort to give written notice of termination of a contracted provider, to each member who was seen on a regular basis by the terminated provider. The notice to the member shall be provided 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the termination or 15 calendar days after receipt or issuance of the termination notice, whichever is later. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(f)(1)).
- C. The Contractor shall make available, upon request, any physician incentive plans in place as set forth in § 438.3(i). (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(f)(2)).

3. Language and Format

- A. Nondiscrimination Requirements, Language Assistance, and Information Access for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency and/or Disabilities (42 C.F.R. § 438.10; W&I Code § 14029.91; W&I Code § 14727; Government Code § 11135; 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.160-35.164; 28 C.F.R. § 36.303; 45 C.F.R. Part 92; 42 U.S.C. § 18116; 42 U.S.C. 12101*et seq.*)).
- 1) The Contractor shall comply with all applicable state and federal requirements regarding nondiscrimination, language assistance, information access, including but not limited to, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, § 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
 - 2) The Department shall use the following methodologies to identify the prevalent non-English languages spoken by members and potential members throughout the State, and in the Contractor's service area:
 - i. Threshold Standard Language: A population group of mandatory eligible members residing in the Contractor's service area who indicate their primary language as a language other than English, and that meet a numeric threshold of 3,000 or 5% of the eligible member population, whichever is lower; and

Exhibit A – Attachment 11
INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

- ii. A population group of mandatory eligible members residing in the Contractor's service area who indicate their primary language as a language other than English and who meet the concentration standards of 1,000 in a single zip code or 1,500 in two contiguous zip codes.

3) Nondiscrimination Notice

- i. The Nondiscrimination Notice must be sent in conjunction with each of the following significant notices sent to members:
 - a. Notices of Adverse Benefit Determination.
 - b. Grievance acknowledgement letter.
 - c. Appeal acknowledgement letter.
 - d. Grievance resolution letter.
 - e. Notice of Appeal Resolution.
- ii. The Contractor shall post a Department-approved nondiscrimination notice that informs members, potential members, and the public about nondiscrimination, protected characteristics, and accessibility requirements, and conveys the Contractor's compliance with the requirements.
- iii. The nondiscrimination notice shall be posted in at least a 12-point font and be included in any documents that are vital or critical to obtaining services and/or benefits, and all other informational notices targeted to members, potential members, and the public. Informational notices include not only documents intended for the public, such as outreach, education, and marketing materials, but also written notices requiring a response from an individual and written notices to an individual such as those pertaining to rights or benefits.
- iv. The nondiscrimination notice shall also be posted in at least a 12-point font in conspicuous physical locations where the Contractor interacts with the public, and on the Contractor's website in a location that allows any visitor to the website to easily locate the information.
- v. The nondiscrimination notice shall include all legally required elements under the applicable subsections of Government Code § 11135.

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- vi. The nondiscrimination notice shall include information on how to file a discrimination grievance with:
 - a. The Contractor and the Department's Office of Civil Rights if there is a concern of discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, mental disability, physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
 - b. The United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights if there is a concern of discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.
 - vii. The Contractor is not prohibited from posting the nondiscrimination notice in additional publications and communications.
- 4) Language Assistance Taglines
- i. The Language Assistance Taglines must be sent in conjunction with each of the following significant notices sent to members:
 - a. Notices of Adverse Benefit Determination.
 - b. Grievance acknowledgement letter.
 - c. Appeal acknowledgement letter.
 - d. Grievance resolution letter.
 - e. Notice of Appeal Resolution.
 - ii. The Contractor shall post Department-approved taglines in a conspicuously visible size (no less than 12-point font), in English and at least the top 18 non-English languages in the State (as determined by the Department), informing members, potential members, and the public of the availability of no-cost language assistance services, including assistance in non-English languages and the provision of free auxiliary aids and services for people with disabilities.
 - iii. Taglines shall be posted in any documents that are vital or critical to obtaining services and/or benefits, conspicuous

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physical locations where the Contractor interacts with the public, on the Contractor's website in a location that allows any visitor to the website to easily locate the information, and in all member information and other information notice, in accordance with federal and state requirements.

5) Language Assistance Services

- i. Language assistance services shall be provided free of charge, be accurate and timely, and protect the privacy and independence of the limited English proficiency (LEP) individual. There are two primary types of language assistance services: oral and written. LEP individuals are not required to accept language assistance services, although a qualified interpreter may be used to assist in communicating with an LEP individual who has refused language assistance services.
- ii. The Contractor shall comply with the following oral interpretation requirements:
- iii. Contractors shall provide oral interpretation services from a qualified interpreter, on a 24-hour basis, at all key points of contact, at no cost to members. Key points of contact refer to common points of access to covered services, including but not limited to the Contractor's member problem resolution process, Contractor-owned or -operated or contract hospitals, and any other central access locations established by the Contractor. Key points of contact may include medical care settings and non-medical care settings.
- iv. Font shall be provided in all languages and is not limited to threshold or concentration standard languages.
- v. Interpretation can take place in-person, through a telephonic interpreter, or internet or video remote interpreting (VRI) services. However, the Contractor is prohibited from using remote audio or VRI services that do not comply with federal quality standards, or relying on unqualified bilingual/multilingual staff, interpreters, or translators. The Contractor should not solely rely on telephone language lines for interpreter services. Rather, telephonic interpreter services should supplement face-to-face interpreter services, which are a more effective means of communication.

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- vi. An interpreter is a person who renders a message spoken in one language into one or more languages. An interpreter shall be qualified and have knowledge in both languages of the relevant terms or concepts particular to the program or activity and the dialect spoken by the LEP individual. In order to be considered a qualified interpreter for an LEP individual, the interpreter must: 1) have demonstrated proficiency in speaking and understanding both English and the language spoken by the LEP individual; 2) be able to interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressly, to and from the language spoken by the LEP individual and English, using any necessary specialized vocabulary, terminology, and phraseology; and 3) adhere to generally accepted interpreter ethics principles, including client confidentiality.
- vii. If the Contractor provides a qualified interpreter for an individual with LEP through remote audio interpreting services, the Contractor shall provide real-time audio over a dedicated high-speed, wide-bandwidth video connection or wireless connection that delivers high-quality audio without lags or irregular pauses in communication; a clear, audible transmission of voices; and adequate training to users of the technology and other involved individuals so that they may quickly and efficiently set up and operate the remote interpreting services.
- viii. The Contractor is prohibited from requiring LEP individuals to provide their own interpreters, or from relying on bilingual/multilingual staff members who do not meet the qualifications of a qualified interpreter. Some bilingual/multilingual staff may be able to communicate effectively in a non-English language when communicating information directly in that language but may not be competent to interpret in and out of English. Bilingual/multilingual staff may be used to communicate directly with LEP individuals only when they have demonstrated to the Contractor that they meet all the qualifications of a qualified interpreter listed above.
- ix. The Contractor is prohibited from relying on an adult or minor child accompanying an LEP individual to interpret or facilitate communication except when: 1) there is an emergency involving an imminent threat to the safety or

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welfare of the individual or the public and a qualified interpreter is not immediately available; or, 2) the LEP individual specifically requests that an accompanying adult interpret or facilitate communication, the accompanying adult agrees to provide that assistance, and reliance on that accompanying adult for that assistance is appropriate under the circumstances. Prior to using a family member, friend or, in an emergency only, a minor child as an interpreter for an LEP individual, the Contractor shall first inform the individual that they have the right to free interpreter services and second, ensure that the use of such an interpreter will not compromise the effectiveness of services or violate the LEP individual's confidentiality. The Contractor shall also ensure that the LEP individual's refusal of free interpreter services and their request to use family members, friends, or a minor child as an interpreter is documented.

- x. The Contractor shall comply with the following written translation requirements:
- xi. The Contractor shall use a qualified translator when translating written content in paper or electronic form. A qualified translator is a translator who: 1) adheres to generally accepted translator ethics principles, including client confidentiality; 2) has demonstrated proficiency in writing and understanding both written English and the written non-English language(s) in need of translation; and 3) is able to translate effectively, accurately, and impartially to and from such language(s) and English, using any necessary specialized vocabulary, terminology, and phraseology.
- xii. At a minimum, the Contractor shall provide written translations of member information in the threshold and concentration languages.

6) Effective Communication with Individuals with Disabilities

- i. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable requirements of federal and state disability law and take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities, as described in BHIN 24-007.
- ii. The Contractor shall make member information available in large print (no less than 20-point font) alternative format.

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- iii. The Contractor shall not require an individual with a disability to provide their own interpreter. The Contractor is also prohibited from relying on an adult or minor child accompanying an individual with a disability to interpret or facilitate communication except as described in BHIN 24-007. Prior to using a family member, friend, or, in an emergency only, a minor child as an interpreter for an individual with a disability, the Contractor shall first inform the individual that they have the right to free interpreter services and second, ensure that the use of such an interpreter will not compromise the effectiveness of services or violate the individual's confidentiality. The Contractor shall ensure that the refusal of free interpreter services and the individual's request to use a family member, friend, or a minor child as an interpreter is documented.
- iv. The Contractor shall make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, or procedures when such modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination based on disability.

4. Handbook

- A. The Contractor shall mail members a physical copy of the handbook and provider directory, offer members a physical copy of the handbook and provider directory when the member first accesses services, or ensure that members receive a link to the online versions of these member materials after receiving the member's consent to receive the handbook and provider directory electronically. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.360(e); BHIN 24-034.)
- B. The Contractor shall ensure that the handbook includes the current toll-free telephone number for the 24/7 access line described in Exhibit A, Attachment 7, Section 8. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(xiv)).
- C. The member handbook shall include information that enables the member to understand how to effectively use the managed care program. This information shall include, at a minimum:
 - 1) Benefits provided by the Contractor. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(i)).
 - 2) How and where to access any benefits provided by the Contractor, including any cost sharing, and how transportation is provided. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(ii)).
 - i. The amount, duration, and scope of benefits available under the Contract in sufficient detail to ensure that members

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understand the benefits to which they are entitled. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(iii)).

- ii. Procedures for obtaining benefits, including any requirements for service authorizations and/or referrals for specialty care and for other benefits not furnished by the member's provider. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(iv)).
- iii. Any restrictions on the member's freedom of choice among network providers. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(vi)).
- iv. The extent to which, and how, members may obtain benefits from out-of-network providers. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(vii)).
- v. Cost sharing, if any, consistent with the California State Plan § 4.18. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(viii)).
- vi. Member rights and responsibilities, including the elements specified in 42 C.F.R. 438.100 as specified in Section 7 of this Attachment. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(ix)).
- vii. The process of selecting and changing the member's provider. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(x)).
- viii. Grievance, appeal, and State Hearing procedures and timeframes, consistent with 42 C.F.R. sections 438.400 through 438.424, in a state-developed or state-approved description. Such information shall include:
 - a. The right to file grievances and appeals;
 - b. The Contractor shall include information on filing a Discrimination Grievance with the Contractor, the Department's Office of Civil Rights and the U.S. Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights, and shall specifically include information stating that the Contractor complies with all state and federal civil rights laws. If a member believes they have been unlawfully discriminated against, they have the right to file a Discrimination Grievance with the Contractor, the Department's Office of Civil Rights, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights;
 - c. The requirements and timeframes for filing a grievance or appeal;

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- d. The availability of assistance in the filing process;
- e. The right to request a State Hearing after the Contractor has made a determination on a member's appeal which is adverse to the member;
- f. The fact that, when requested by the member, benefits that the Contractor seeks to reduce or terminate will continue if the member files an appeal or a request for State Hearing within the timeframes specified for filing, and that the member may, consistent with state policy, be required to pay the cost of services furnished while the appeal or State Hearing is pending if the final decision is adverse to the member. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(xi)).
- ix. How to exercise an advance directive, as set forth in 42 C.F.R. section 438.3(j). (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(xii)).
- x. How to access auxiliary aids and services, including additional information in alternative formats or languages. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(xiii)).
- xi. The Contractor's toll-free telephone number for member services, medical management, and any other unit providing services directly to members. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(xiv)).
- xii. Information on how to report suspected fraud or abuse. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(2)(xv)).
- xiii. Additional information that is available upon request, includes the following:
 - a. Information on the structure and operation of the Contractor.
 - b. Physician incentive plans as set forth in 42 C.F.R. section 438.3(i). (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(f)(3)).
- D. The Contractor shall give each member notice of any significant change, as defined by the Department, to information in the handbook at least 30 days before the intended effective date of the change. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g)(4)).
- E. Consistent with 42 C.F.R. section 438.10(g)(3) and BHIN 24-034 (and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 24-034), the handbook will be considered provided if the Contractor delivers the handbook as required below:

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- 1) Direct Delivery
 - i. Mails a printed copy of the information to the member's mailing address;
 - ii. Offers a printed copy of the information to the member during in-person interactions; or
 - iii. Provides the information by email after obtaining the member's agreement to receive the information by email.

AND

- 2) Website
 - i. Posts the information on the Contractor's website in a manner that is readily accessible;
 - ii. Advises the member in paper or electronic form that the information is available on the internet and includes the applicable internet addresses;
 - iii. Provides that members with disabilities who cannot access this information online are provided auxiliary aids and services upon request at no cost; and
 - iv. Inform members the information is available in paper form without charge upon request and provide the member handbook upon request within five (5) business days.

5. Provider Directory

- A. The Contractor must follow the Department's provider directory policy, as described in MHSUDS IN 18-020 or BHIN 22-070, as applicable, and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede these guidance documents.
 - 1) {Integrated Contracts (DMC-ODS and DMC)} The Contractor shall offer members a provider directory that includes information on providers of both SMHS and SUD services.
- B. The Contractor shall make provider directories available in electronic and paper form upon request, and maintain a publicly accessible standards-based Provider Directory API as described in 42 C.F.R. § 431.70 and BHIN 22-068 and any subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 22-068 or BHIN 22-070, as applicable, and meet the same technical standards of the Patient Access API and ensure that the provider directories include the following information for all providers who receive Medicaid funding to order, refer, or render covered services under this Contract including all network providers, and each licensed, waived, or

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registered mental health or SUD provider employed by the Contractor, each provider organization, including a hospital or pharmacy, or individual practitioner contracting with the Contractor, and each licensed, waived, or registered mental health or SUD provider employed by a provider organization to deliver Medi-Cal services (BHINs 22-068 and 22-070; 42 C.F.R. section 438.10(h)(1)):

- 1) Information on the services and benefits available, including specialty (as applicable).
 - 2) The names, medical group/foundation, independent physician/provider associations, and any group affiliations, street addresses, telephone numbers, specialty, email address(es), as appropriate, and website URLs of current contracted providers by category.
 - 3) The provider's cultural and linguistic capabilities, including languages (including ASL) offered by the provider or a skilled medical interpreter at the provider's office.
 - 4) Whether providers' offices/facilities have accommodations for people with physical disabilities, including offices, exam room(s) and equipment.
 - 5) A means to identify which providers are accepting new members.
 - 6) Type of practitioner as appropriate.
 - 7) National Provider Identifier number.
 - 8) California License number and type of license.
 - 9) Whether the provider has completed cultural competence training.
 - 10) Hours and days when each service location is open, including the availability of evening and/or weekend hours.
- C. Information included in a paper provider directory shall be updated at least monthly and electronic provider directories and Provider Directory API shall be updated no later than 30 calendar days after the Contractor receives updated provider information. The Contractor shall ensure processes are in place to allow providers to promptly verify or submit changes to the information required to be in the directory. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(h)(3); 42 CFR § 431.70; BHIN 22-068.)
- D. Provider directories shall be made available on the Contractor's website in a machine-readable file and format as specified by HHS. (42 C.F.R. § 438.10(h)(4)).

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- 1) {DMC-ODS PHC Model only} The provider directory must also be made available on the Contractor's website in a machine-readable file and format as specified by HHS;
 - E. {DMC only} The provider directory shall include a statement that affirms a DMC county member's right to obtain covered services from any enrolled and DMC-certified provider, even if that provider is not listed in the provider directory.
- 6. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Advance Directives**
- A. For purposes of this Contract, advance directives means a written instruction, such as a living will or durable power of attorney for health care, recognized under California law, relating to the provision of health care when the individual is incapacitated. (42 C.F.R. § 489.100).
 - B. The Contractor shall maintain written policies and procedures on advance directives, which include a description of applicable California law. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.3(j)(1) and (3), and 422.128). Any written materials prepared by the Contractor for members shall be updated to reflect changes in state laws governing advance directives as soon as possible, but no later than 90 days after the effective date of the change. (42 C.F.R. § 438.3(j)(4)).
 - C. The Contractor shall provide adult members with the written information on advance directives. (42 C.F.R. § 438.3(j)(3)).
 - D. The Contractor shall not condition the provision of care or otherwise discriminate against an individual based on whether or not the individual has executed an advance directive. (42 C.F.R. §§ 422.128(b)(1)(ii)(F), and 438.3(j)).
 - E. The Contractor shall educate staff concerning its policies and procedures on advance directives. (42 C.F.R. §§ 422.128(b)(1)(ii)(H), and 438.3(j)(1)).
- 7. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Member Rights**
- A. The parties to this Contract shall comply with applicable laws and regulations relating to patients' rights, including but not limited to W&I Code section 5325, 9 C.C.R. sections 862 through 868, and 42 C.F.R. section 438.100. The Contractor shall ensure that its subcontractors and contracted providers comply with all applicable patients' rights laws and regulations.
 - B. The Contractor shall have written policies regarding the member rights specified in this section and ensure that its staff, subcontractors, and

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contracted providers take those rights into account when providing services, including the right to:

- 1) Receive information in accordance with 42 C.F.R. section 438.10. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(b)(2)(i)).
- 2) Be treated with respect and with due consideration for their dignity and privacy. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(b)(2)(ii)).
- 3) Receive information on available treatment options and alternatives, presented in a manner appropriate to the member's condition and ability to understand. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(b)(2)(iii)).
- 4) Participate in decisions regarding their health care, including the right to refuse treatment. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(b)(2)(iv)).
- 5) Be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(b)(2)(v)).
- 6) Request and receive a copy of their medical records, and to request that they be amended or corrected. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(b)(2)(vi); 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.524, and 164.526).
- 7) Be furnished services in accordance with 42 C.F.R. sections 438.206 through 438.210. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(b)(3)).
- 8) Freely exercise their rights without adversely affecting the way the Contractor, subcontractor, or contracted provider treats the member. (42 C.F.R. § 438.100(c)).

8. {DMC-ODS only} Formulary

- A. The Contractor shall make available in electronic or paper form, the following information about its formulary:
 - 1) Which medications are covered (both generic and name brand).
 - 2) On what tier each medication resides.
- B. Formulary drug lists shall be made available on the Contractor's website in a machine-readable file and format as specified by the Secretary.

**Exhibit A – Attachment 12
MEMBER PROBLEM RESOLUTION**

1. General Provisions

- A. The Contractor shall have a grievance and appeal system in place for members. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.228(a), 438.402(a); 9 C.C.R. § 1850.205; BHIN 22-070.) The grievance and appeal system shall be implemented to handle appeals of adverse benefit determinations and grievances and shall include processes to collect and track information about them. The Contractor's member problem resolution processes shall include:
- 1) A grievance process;
 - 2) An appeal process; and,
 - 3) An expedited appeal process. (42 C.F.R. § 438.228(a); 9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(b); BHIN 22-070.)
- B. For the grievance, appeal, and expedited appeal processes, the Contractor shall comply with the following requirements:
- 1) The Contractor shall ensure that each member has adequate information about the Contractor's problem resolution processes by taking at least the following actions:
 - i. Including information describing the grievance, appeal, and expedited appeal processes in the Contractor's member handbook and providing the member handbook to members as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 11, Section 4 of this Contract. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(c)(1)(A); 42 C.F.R. § 438.10(g).)
 - ii. At all contracted provider sites, other than out-of-network providers:
 - a. Posting notices explaining grievance, appeal, and expedited appeal process procedures in locations at all Contractor provider sites. Notices shall be sufficient to ensure that the information is readily available to both members and provider staff. The posted notice shall also explain the availability of State Hearings after the exhaustion of an appeal or expedited appeal process, including information that a State Hearing may be requested whether or not the member has received a notice of adverse benefit determination. (9 C.C.R. §§ 1850.205(c)(1)(B) and 1850.210; BHIN 22-070.)

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- b. Make available forms that may be used to file grievances, appeals, and expedited appeals and self-addressed envelopes that members can access, without having to make a verbal or written request to anyone. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(c)(1)(C); BHIN 22-070.)
 - iii. Give members any reasonable assistance in completing the forms and other procedural steps related to a grievance or appeal. This includes, but is not limited to, providing interpreter services, auxiliary aids and services upon request, and toll-free numbers with TTY/TDD and interpreter capability. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(a); 42 C.F.R. § 438.228(a); BHIN 22-070.)
- 2) The Contractor shall allow members to file grievances and request appeals. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(1); BHIN 22-070.) The Contractor shall have only one level of appeal for members. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(b); 42 C.F.R. § 438.228(a); BHIN 22-070.)
- 3) A member may request a State Hearing after receiving notice under 438.408 that the adverse benefit determination is upheld. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(1); 42 C.F.R. § 438.408(f).)
- 4) The Contractor shall adhere to the notice and timing requirements in §438.408. If the Contractor fails to adhere to these notice and timing requirements, the member is deemed to have exhausted the Contractor's appeals process and may initiate a State Hearing. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.402(c)(1)(i)(A), 438.408(c)(3); BHIN 22-070.)
- 5) The Contractor shall acknowledge receipt of each grievance, appeal, and request for expedited appeal of adverse benefit determinations to the member, in writing, within five calendar days. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(1); 42 C.F.R. § 438.228(a); 9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(d)(4); BHIN 22-070.) Provided, however, that grievances received over the telephone or in-person by the Contractor or a contracted provider that are resolved to the member's satisfaction by the close of the next business day following receipt are exempt from the requirement to send a written acknowledgment.
- 6) The Contractor shall allow a provider, or authorized representative, acting on behalf of the member and with the member's written consent to request an appeal or expedited appeal, file a grievance, or request a State Hearing, with the exception that providers cannot request continuation of benefits. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(1)(i)-(ii); 9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(c)(2); BHIN 22-070.)

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- 7) [Reserved]
- 8) At the member's request, the Contractor shall identify staff or another individual, such as a legal guardian, to be responsible for assisting a member with these processes, including providing assistance in writing the grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal. If the individual identified by the Contractor is the person providing SMHS or SUD services to the member requesting assistance, the Contractor shall identify another individual to assist that member. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(c)(4).) Assistance includes, but is not limited to, auxiliary aids and services upon request, such as providing interpreter services and toll-free numbers with TTY/TDD and interpreter capability. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(a); BHIN 22-070.)
- 9) The Contractor shall not subject a member to discrimination or any other penalty for filing a grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(c)(5); 42 C.F.R. § 438.100(c); BHIN 22-070.)
- 10) The Contractor's procedures for the member problem resolution processes shall maintain the confidentiality of each member's information, including compliance with HIPAA and other applicable federal and state laws. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(c)(6).)
- 11) The Contractor shall include a procedure to transmit issues identified as a result of the grievance, appeal or expedited appeal processes to the Contractor's Quality Improvement Committee, the Contractor's administration or another appropriate body within the Contractor's operations. The Contractor shall consider these issues in the Contractor's Quality Improvement Program, as required by 9 C.C.R. § 1810.440(a)(5). (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(c)(7); BHIN 22-070.)
- 12) The Contractor shall ensure that decision makers on grievances and appeals of adverse benefit determinations were not involved in any previous level of review or decision-making and were not subordinates of any individual who was involved in a previous level of review or decision-making. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(2)(i); 42 C.F.R. § 438.228(a); BHIN 22-070.)
- 13) The Contractor shall ensure that individuals making decisions on grievances and appeals have the appropriate clinical expertise, as determined by the Department, in treating the member's condition or disease, if the decision involves an appeal based on a denial of medical necessity, a grievance regarding denial of a request for an expedited appeal, or if the grievance or appeal involves clinical

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issues. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(2)(ii)(A)-(C); 42 C.F.R. § 438.228(a); BHIN 22-070.)

- 14) The Contractor shall provide the member a reasonable opportunity, in person and in writing, to present evidence and testimony and make legal and factual arguments. The Contractor must inform the member of the limited time available for this sufficiently in advance of the resolution timeframe for appeals specified in § 438.408(b) and (c) in the case of expedited resolution. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(4); BHIN 22-070.)
- 15) The Contractor shall ensure that decision makers on grievances and appeals of adverse benefit determinations take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the member or member's representative, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial adverse benefit determination. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(2)(iii); 42 C.F.R. § 438.228(a); BHIN 22-070.)
- 16) The Contractor shall provide the member and their representative the member's case file, including medical records, other documents and records, and any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated by the Contractor (or at the direction of the Contractor) in connection with the appeal of the adverse benefit determination. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(5); BHIN 22-070.)
- 17) The Contractor shall provide the member and their representative the member's case file free of charge and sufficiently in advance of the resolution timeframe for standard and expedited appeal resolutions. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(5); BHIN 22-070.)
- 18) The Contractor shall treat oral inquiries seeking to appeal an adverse benefit determination as appeals (to establish the earliest possible filing date for the appeal) and must confirm these oral inquiries in writing, unless the member or the provider requests expedited resolution. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(3); BHIN 22-070.)
- 19) The Contractor's member problem resolution process shall not replace or conflict with the duties of county patient's rights advocates. (W&I Code § 5520.)

2. Handling of Grievances and Appeals

The Contractor shall adhere to the following record keeping, monitoring, and review requirements:

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- A. Maintain a grievance and appeal log and record grievances, appeals, and expedited appeals in the log within one working day of the date of receipt of the grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal. (42 C.F.R. § 438.416(a); 9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(d)(1); BHIN 22-070.) Each record shall include, but not be limited to: a general description of the reason for the appeal or grievance the date received, the date of each review or review meeting, resolution information for each level of the appeal or grievance, if applicable, and the date of resolution at each level, if applicable, and the name of the covered person whom the appeal or grievance was filed. (42 C.F.R. § 438.416(b)(1)-(6); BHIN 22-070.)
- B. Record in the grievance and appeal log or another central location determined by the Contractor, the final dispositions of grievances, appeals, and expedited appeals, including the date the decision is sent to the member. If there has not been final disposition of the grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal, the reason(s) shall be included in the log. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(d)(2).)
- C. Provide a staff person or other individual with responsibility to provide information requested by the member or the member's representative regarding the status of the member's grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal. (9 C.C.R. 9, § 1850.205(d)(3).)
- D. Identify in its grievance, appeal, and expedited appeal documentation, the roles and responsibilities of the Contractor, the provider, and the member. (9 C.C.R. 9, § 1850.205(d)(5).)
- E. Provide notice, in writing, to any provider identified by the member or involved in the grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal of the final disposition of the member's grievance, appeal, or expedited appeal. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.205(d)(6).)
- F. Maintain records in the grievance and appeal log accurately and in a manner accessible to the Department and available upon request to CMS. (42 C.F.R. § 438.416(c).)

3. Grievance Process

The Contractor's grievance process shall, at a minimum:

- A. Allow members to file a grievance either orally, or in writing at any time with the Contractor. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(2)(i) and (c)(3)(i); BHIN 22-070.)
- B. The Contractor shall provide to the member written acknowledgement of receipt of the grievance. The acknowledgment letter shall include the date of receipt, as well as the name, telephone number, and address of the

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Plan representative who the member may contact about the grievance. The written acknowledgement to the member must be postmarked within five calendar days of receipt of the grievance. Grievances received over the telephone or in-person by the Contractor or a contracted provider that are resolved to the member's satisfaction by the close of the next business day following receipt are exempt from the requirement to send a written notification of resolution using the Written Notification of Grievance Resolution form.

- C. Resolve each grievance as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires not to exceed 30 calendar days from the day the Contractor receives the grievance. (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(a)-(b)(1).)
- D. [Reserved]
- E. Provide written notification to the member or the appropriate representative of the resolution of a grievance and documentation of the notification or efforts to notify the member, if they could not be contacted. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.206(c); BHIN 22-070.)
- F. Notify the member of the resolution of a grievance in a format and language that meets applicable notification standards. (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(d)(1); 42 C.F.R. § 438.10; BHIN 22-070.)

4. Discrimination Grievances

- A. For Discrimination Grievances:
 - 1) The Contractor shall designate a Discrimination Grievance Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state nondiscrimination requirements, and investigating Discrimination Grievances related to any action that would be prohibited by, or out of compliance with, federal or state nondiscrimination law. (W&I Code § 14727(a)(4); 45 C.F.R. § 84.7; 28 C.F.R. § 35.107; see 42 U.S.C. § 18116(a); California's Medicaid State Plan, Section 7, Attachments 7.2-A and 7.2-B; BHIN 22-070.) The Discrimination Grievance Coordinator shall be available to:
 - i. Answer questions and provide appropriate assistance to the Contractor staff and members regarding the Contractor's state and federal nondiscrimination legal obligations.
 - ii. Advise the Contractor about nondiscrimination best practices and accommodating persons with disabilities.

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- iii. Investigate and process any Americans with Disabilities Act, § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, § 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, and/or California Government Code § 11135 grievances received by the Contractor.
- 2) The Contractor shall adopt procedures to ensure the prompt and equitable resolution of discrimination-related complaints. (W&I Code § 14727(a)(4); 45 C.F.R. § 84.7; 28 C.F.R. § 35.107; see 42 U.S.C. § 18116(a); California's Medicaid State Plan, Section 7, Attachments 7.2-A and 7.2-B; BHIN 22-070.) The Contractor shall not require a member to file a Discrimination Grievance with the Contractor before filing the complaint directly with the DHCS Office of Civil Rights and the U.S. Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights.
- 3) Within ten calendar days of mailing a Discrimination Grievance resolution letter to a member, the Contractor must submit, in a secure format, the following information regarding the complaint to the DHCS Office of Civil Rights' designated Discrimination Grievance email box (DHCS.DiscriminationGrievances@dhcs.ca.gov). (California Medicaid State Plan, Section 7, Attachments 7.2-A and 7.2-B; BHIN 22-070):
- i. The original complaint.
 - ii. The provider's or other accused party's response to the complaint.
 - iii. Contact information for the personnel primarily responsible for investigating and responding to the complaint on behalf of the Contractor.
 - iv. Contact information for the member filing the complaint, and for the provider or other accused party that is the subject of the complaint.
 - v. All correspondence with the member regarding the complaint, including, but not limited to, the Discrimination Grievance acknowledgment letter and resolution letter(s) sent to the member.
 - vi. The results of the Contractor's investigation, copies of any corrective action taken, and any other information that is relevant to the allegation(s) of discrimination.

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5. Appeals Process

- A. The Contractor's appeal process shall, at a minimum:
- 1) Allow a member, or a provider or authorized representative acting on the member's behalf, to file an appeal orally or in writing. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(3)(ii); BHIN 22-070.) The member may file an appeal within 60 calendar days from the date on the adverse benefit determination notice (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(2)(ii); BHIN 22-070.);
 - 2) The Contractor shall ensure that oral inquiries seeking to appeal an adverse benefit determination are treated as appeals. The date the Contractor receives the oral appeal shall be considered the filing date for the purpose of applying the appeal timeframes (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(3).);
 - 3) Resolve each appeal and provide notice, as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires, within 30 calendar days from the day the Contractor receives the appeal. (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(a) and (b)(2); BHIN 22-070.);
 - 4) [Reserved]
 - 5) Allow the member, their representative, or the legal representative of a deceased member's estate, to be included as parties to the appeal. (42 C.F.R. § 438.406(b)(6); BHIN 22-070.)
- B. The Contractor shall notify the member, and/or their representative, of the resolution of the appeal in writing in a format and language that, at a minimum, meets applicable notification standards. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.408(d)(2)(i), 438.408(e), 438.10; MHSUD IN 18-010E; BHIN 22-070.) The notice shall contain the following:
- 1) The results of the appeal resolution process (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(e)(1).);
 - 2) The date that the appeal decision was made (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(e)(1).);
 - 3) If the appeal is not resolved wholly in favor of the member, the notice shall also contain:
 - i. Information regarding the member's right to a State Hearing and the procedure for requesting a State Hearing, if the member has not already requested a State Hearing on the issue involved in the appeal; (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(e)(2)(i).) and

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- ii. Information on the member's right to continue to receive benefits while the State Hearing is pending and how to request the continuation of benefits; (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(e)(2)(ii).)

6. Expedited Appeal Process

- A. "Expedited Appeal" is an appeal used when the Contractor (for a request from the member) or the provider indicates (in making the request on the member's behalf or supporting the member's request) that taking the time for a standard resolution could seriously jeopardize the member's life, physical or mental health, or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. (42 C.F.R. § 438.410; BHIN 22-070.)
- B. The Contractor's expedited appeal process shall, at a minimum:
 - 1) Be used when the Contractor determines or the member and/or the member's provider certifies that taking the time for a standard appeal resolution could seriously jeopardize the member's life, physical or mental health or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. (42 C.F.R. § 438.410(a).)
 - 2) Allow the member to file the request for an expedited appeal orally without requiring the member to submit a subsequent written, signed appeal. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(3)(ii).)
 - 3) Ensure that punitive action is not taken against a provider who requests an expedited resolution or supports a member's expedited appeal. (42 C.F.R. § 438.410(b).)
 - 4) [Reserved]
 - 5) Resolve an expedited appeal as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires and no later than 72 hours after the day Contractor receives the appeal. (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(b)(3); BHIN 22-070.)
 - 6) Provide a member with a written notice of the expedited appeal disposition and make reasonable efforts to provide oral notice to the member and/or their representative. The written notice shall meet the requirements of 9 C.C.R. section 1850.207(h) and Exhibit A Attachment 12 Section 5.B. (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(d)(2); 9 C.C.R. § 1850.207(h); BHIN 22-070.)
 - 7) If the Contractor denies a request for an expedited appeal resolution, the Contractor shall:

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- i. Transfer the expedited appeal request to the timeframe for standard resolution of no longer than 30 calendar days from the day the Contractor receives the appeal, as set forth above. (42 C.F.R. § 438.410(c)(1); BHIN 22-070.)
- ii. Make reasonable efforts to give the member and their representative prompt oral notice of the denial of the request for an expedited appeal. Provide written notice of the decision and reason for the decision within two calendar days of the date of the denial, and inform the member of the right to file a grievance if they disagree with the decision. (42 C.F.R. § 438.410(c)(2); 42 C.F.R. § 438.408(c)(2).) The written notice of the denial of the request for an expedited appeal is not a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. (9 C.C.R. § 1810.230.5.)

7. Contractor Obligations Related to State Hearing

“State Hearing” means the hearing provided by the State to members pursuant to 22 C.C.R. §§ 50951 and 50953, and 9 C.C.R. § 1810.216.6:

- A. If a member requests a State Hearing, the Department shall grant the request. (42 C.F.R. § 431.220(a)(5).) The right to a State Hearing, how to obtain a hearing, and representation rules at a hearing must be explained to the member and provider by the Contractor in its notice of decision or Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination. (42 C.F.R. § 431.206(b); 42 C.F.R. § 431.228(b).) Members and providers shall also be informed of the following:
 - 1) In general, a member may request a State Hearing only after receiving notice that the Contractor is upholding the adverse benefit determination. (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(f)(1).)
 - 2) If the Contractor fails to adhere to notice and timing requirements under 42 C.F.R. section 438.408, the member is deemed to have exhausted the Contractor’s appeals process, and the member may initiate a State Hearing. (42 C.F.R. § 438.408(f)(1)(i); 42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(1)(i)(A); BHIN 22-070.)
 - 3) The member, or a provider or authorized representative with the member’s written consent, may request a State Hearing. (42 C.F.R. § 438.402(c)(1)(ii).)
- B. The Contractor shall represent the Contractor’s position in hearings, as defined in 42 C.F.R. section 438.408(f)(3) dealing with members’ appeals of denials, modifications, deferrals or terminations of covered services, as applicable.

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- C. The Contractor shall carry out the final decisions of the hearing process with respect to issues within the scope of the Contractor's responsibilities under this Contract.
- D. Nothing in this section is intended to prevent the Contractor from pursuing any options available for appealing a hearing decision.

8. Expedited Hearing

"Expedited Hearing" means a hearing provided by the State, used when the Contractor determines, or the member or the member's provider certifies that following the 90-day timeframe for a State Hearing as established in 42 C.F.R. section 431.244(f)(1) would seriously jeopardize the member's life, health, or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. (42 C.F.R. § 431.244(f)(1); 42 C.F.R. § 438.410(a); 9 C.C.R. § 1810.216.4.)

9. Continuation of Services During Appeal; Effectuation of Decision from Appeal or State Hearing

- A. Notwithstanding Title 9 C.C.R. section 1850.215, Contractor must automatically continue providing the disputed services to the member while the appeal and State Hearing are pending if all of the following conditions are met:
 - 1) The member filed their appeal within the required timeframes set forth in 42 C.F.R. section 438.420;
 - 2) The appeal involves the termination, suspension, or reduction of previously authorized Covered Services;
 - 3) The disputed services were ordered by the member's provider; and
 - 4) The period covered by the original authorization has not expired.
- B. Services provided to a member while an appeal or State Hearing is pending must continue until one of the following occur: (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.420(c)(1)-(3), 438.408(d)(2)):
 - 1) The member withdraws their request for an appeal or a State Hearing;
 - 2) The member fails to request a State Hearing and continuation of disputed services within ten calendar days of when the NOABD was sent; or
 - 3) The final State Hearing decision is adverse to the member.
- C. Contractor must pay for disputed services if the member received the disputed services while the appeal or State Hearing was pending. (42

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C.F.R. § 438.420(d)). Contractor must ensure the member is not billed for services provided while the appeal or State Hearing is pending even if the State Hearing finds the disputed services were not medically necessary.

- D. The Contractor shall authorize or provide the disputed services promptly, and as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires, but no later than 72 hours from the date the Contractor receives notice reversing the determination if the services were not furnished while the appeal or State Hearing was pending and if the Contractor or State Hearing officer reverses a decision to deny, limit, or delay services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.424(a).)

10. Provision of Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination

- A. The Contractor shall notify the requesting provider within 24 hours, and give the member written notice as specified below, of any decision to deny a service authorization request, or to authorize a service in an amount, duration, or scope that is less than requested. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(c); 42 C.F.R. § 438.404; BHIN 22-070.) The Contractor shall provide a member with a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination (NOABD) under the circumstances defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.400 under Adverse Benefit Determination.
- B. The Contractor shall give members timely and adequate notice of an adverse benefit determination in writing and shall meet the language and format requirements of 42 Code of Federal Regulations part 438.10. (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(a); 42 C.F.R. § 438.10; BHIN 22-070.) The NOABD shall contain the items specified in 42 Code of Federal Regulations part 438.404 (b) and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 1850.212, and shall comply with the parameters specified below, regardless of whether the NOABD pertains to covered services.
- 1) When the denial or modification involves a request from a provider for continued Contractor payment authorization of a service or when the Contractor reduces or terminates a previously approved Contractor payment authorization, notice shall be provided in accordance with 22 C.C.R. § 51014.1. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(a)(1).)
 - 2) A NOABD is not required when a denial is a non-binding verbal description to a provider of the services that may be approved by the Contractor. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(a)(2).)
 - 3) Except as provided below, a NOABD is not required when the denial or modification is a denial or modification of a request for the Contractor payment authorization for a service that has already been provided to the member. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(a)(4).)

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- 4) A NOABD is required when the Contractor denies or modifies a payment authorization request from a provider for a service that has already been provided to the member when the denial or modification is a result of post-service, prepayment determination by the Contractor that the service was not medically necessary or otherwise was not a service covered by the Contractor. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(b).)
 - 5) The Contractor shall deny the Contractor payment authorization request and provide the member with a NOABD when the Contractor does not have sufficient information to approve or modify, or deny on the merits, a Contractor payment authorization request from a provider within the timeframes required by 9 C.C.R. Sections 1820.220 or 1830.215. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(c).)
 - 6) [Reserved]
 - 7) The Contractor shall provide a member with a NOABD when the Contractor or its providers determine that the criteria for access to services have not been met and that the member is not entitled to any SMHS or SUD services from the Contractor. The NOABD shall, at the election of the Contractor, be hand-delivered to the member on the date of the Adverse Benefit Determination or mailed to the member in accordance with 9 C.C.R. section 1850.210(f)(1), and shall specify the information contained in 9 C.C.R. section 1850.212(b). (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(g).)
 - 8) For the purpose of this Attachment, each reference to a Medi-Cal managed care plan in 22 C.C.R. section 51014.1, shall mean the Contractor. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(h).)
 - 9) For the purposes of this Attachment, “medical service”, as used in 22 C.C.R. section 51014.1, shall mean covered services that are subject to prior authorization by a Contractor pursuant to 9 C.C.R. sections 1820.100 and 1830.100. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(i).)
- C. The Contractor shall retain copies of all Notices of Adverse Benefit Determination issued to members under this Section in a centralized file accessible to the Department. The Department shall engage in random reviews of the Contractor and its contracted providers and subcontractors to ensure that they are notifying members in a timely manner (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(j).)
- D. The Contractor shall allow the State to engage in reviews of the Contractor’s records pertaining to Notices of Adverse Benefit

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Determination so the Department may ensure that the Contractor is notifying members in a timely manner.

11. Contents and Timing of NOABD

- A. The Contractor shall include the following information in the NOABD, regardless of whether the NOABD pertains to SMHS or SUD services:
- 1) The adverse benefit determination the Contractor has made or intends to make; (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(b)(1).)
 - 2) The reason for the adverse benefit determination, including the right of the member to be provided upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to the member's adverse benefit determination. Such information includes criteria to access SMHS and/or SUD services, and any processes, strategies, or evidentiary standards used in setting coverage limits; (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(b)(2).)
 - 3) Citations to the regulations or Contractor payment authorization procedures supporting the adverse benefit determination; (9 C.C.R. § 1850.212(a)(3).)
 - 4) The member's right to file, and procedures for exercising, an appeal or expedited appeal with the Contractor, including information about exhausting the Contractor's one level of appeal and the right to request a State Hearing after receiving notice that the adverse benefit determination is upheld; (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(b)(3)-(b)(4).)
 - 5) The circumstances under which an appeal process can be expedited and how to request it; (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(b)(5).)
 - 6) The member's right to have benefits continue pending resolution of the appeal, how to request that benefits be continued, and that the member shall not be held liable for the cost of the benefits if the hearing decision upholds the Contractor's adverse benefit determination.
 - 7) Information about the member's right to request a State Hearing or an expedited State Hearing, including:
 - i. The method by which a hearing may be obtained; (9 C.C.R. § 1850.212(a)(5)(A).)
 - ii. A statement that the member may be either self-represented, or represented by an authorized third party

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such as legal counsel, a relative, friend, or any other person; (9 C.C.R. § 1850.212(a)(5)(B).)

- iii. An explanation of the circumstances under which a covered service will be continued if a State Hearing is requested; (9 C.C.R. § 1850.212(a)(5)(C).) and
- iv. The time limits for requesting a State Hearing or an expedited State Hearing. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.212(a)(5)(D).)

B. The Contractor shall mail the NOABD within the following timeframes, regardless of whether the NOABD pertains to SMHS or SUD services:

- 1) For termination, suspension, or reduction of previously authorized Medi-Cal covered services, at least 10 days before the date of action. (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(c)(1); 42 C.F.R. § 431.211.) The Contractor shall mail the NOABD in as few as 5 days prior to the date of action if the Contractor has facts indicating that action should be taken because of probable fraud by the member, and the facts have been verified, if possible, through secondary sources. (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(c)(1); 42 C.F.R. § 431.214.)
- 2) For denial of payment, at the time of any action affecting the claim. (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(c)(2).)
- 3) For standard service authorizations that deny or limit services, as expeditiously as the member's condition requires not to exceed the time limits below. (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(c)(3); 42 C.F.R. § 438.210(d)(1)(i).)
 - i. Until December 31, 2025, the decision shall be made within 14 calendar days following Contractor's receipt of the request for service. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(d)(1)(i)(A).)
 - ii. Effective January 1, 2026, the decision shall be made within 7 calendar days following the Contractor's receipt of the request for service. (42 C.F.R. § 438.210(d)(1)(i)(B).)
- 4) [Reserved]
- 5) [Reserved]
- 6) [Reserved]
- 7) The Contractor shall give notice on the date that the timeframes expire, when service authorization decisions are not reached within the applicable timeframes for either standard or expedited service authorizations. (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(c)(5).)

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MEMBER PROBLEM RESOLUTION

- 8) If a provider indicates, or the Contractor determines, that following the standard service authorization timeframe could seriously jeopardize the member's life or health or their ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function, the Contractor must make an expedited service authorization decision and provide notice as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires and no later than 72 hours after receipt of the request for service. (42 C.F.R. § 438.404(c)(6); 42 C.F.R. 438.210(d)(2)(i).)
 - 9) [Reserved]
 - 10) The Contractor shall deposit the NOABD with the United States Postal Service in time for pick-up on the date that the applicable timeframe expires. (9 C.C.R. § 1850.210(f).)
- C. The Adverse Benefit Determination shall be effective on the date of the NOABD and the Contractor shall mail the NOABD by the date of adverse benefit determination when any of the following occur:
- 1) The death of a member; (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(a).)
 - 2) Receipt of a signed written member statement requesting service termination or giving information requiring termination or reduction of services, provided the member understands that this will be the result of supplying that information; (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(b)(1)-(b)(2).)
 - 3) The member's admission to an institution where they are ineligible for further services; (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(c).)
 - 4) The member's whereabouts are unknown, and mail directed to them has no forwarding address; (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(d).)
 - 5) Notice that the member has been accepted for Medicaid services by another local jurisdiction; (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(e).)
 - 6) A change in the member's physician's prescription for the level of medical care; (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(f).) or
 - 7) The notice involves an adverse determination with regard to preadmission screening requirements of § 1919(e)(7) of the Act. (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(g).)
 - 8) The transfer or discharge from a facility will occur in an expedited fashion. (42 C.F.R. § 431.213(h).)

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MEMBER PROBLEM RESOLUTION

12. {SMHS, DMC-ODS, and Integrated DMC/SMHS Contracts} Annual Grievance and Appeal Report

The Contractor is required to submit to the Department a report that summarizes member grievances, appeals and expedited appeals, for members receiving either SMHS or SUD services, in accordance with BHIN 22-036, filed from July 1 of the previous year through June 30 of that year by September 1 of each year. The report shall include the total number of grievances, appeals and expedited appeals by type, by subject areas established by the Department, and by disposition. (42 C.F.R. § 438.66(e).)

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PROGRAM INTEGRITY**

1. General Requirements

- A. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} As a condition for receiving payment under a Medi-Cal managed care program, the Contractor shall comply with the provisions of 42 C.F.R. sections 438.604, 438.606, 438.608, and 438.610. (42 C.F.R. § 438.600(b)).
- B. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} The Department shall ensure that the Contractor is not located outside of the United States. (42 C.F.R. § 438.602(i)).
- C. {DMC only} The Contractor is responsible for ensuring program integrity of its DMC services and its contracted providers through a system of oversight.
 - 1) Contractor shall comply with the monitoring and reporting obligations under this Contract, as well as state and federal law and regulations, including, but not limited to:
 - i. 42 CFR §§ 431.800 et seq., 433.51, 438.10, 438.320, 438.416, 438.206, 440.230, 440.260, 455 et seq., 456 et seq., 456.23;
 - ii. 22 C.C.R.. §§ 51490, 51490.1, 51159;
 - iii. W&I Code §§ 14124.1, 14124.2.
 - 2) Contractor shall certify the DMC claims submitted to DHCS represent claims eligible for FFP and attest that the submitted claims have been subject to review and verification process for accuracy and legitimacy (42 CFR §§ 430.30, 433.32, and 433.51). The Contractor shall not knowingly submit claims for services rendered to any member after the member's date of death, or from unenrolled or disenrolled providers.

2. Periodic Audits

Contractor shall be subject to an independent audit of the accuracy, truthfulness, and completeness of the encounter and financial data submitted by, or on behalf of, the Contractor. The audit shall occur no less frequently than once every three years. Contractor shall comply with BHIN 23-044 and subsequently issued BHINs that supersede BHIN 23-044. The Department or its contractor shall conduct the audit. (42 C.F.R. § 438.602(e)).

3. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Excluded Providers

- A. The Contractor shall screen and periodically revalidate all network providers that have not enrolled in Medi-Cal pursuant to 42 C.F.R. §

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455.410(b), in accordance with the requirements of 42 C.F.R. part 455, subparts B and E. (42 C.F.R. §§ 438.602(b), 438.608(b)).

- B. Consistent with the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 455.436, the Contractor must confirm the identity and determine the exclusion status of all network providers that have not enrolled in Medi-Cal pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 455.410(b), and any subcontractor, or who is an agent or managing employee of the Contractor, through routine checks of Federal and State databases. This includes the Social Security Administration's Death Master File, the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), the Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (LEIE), the System for Award Management (SAM), as well as the Department's Medi Cal Suspended and Ineligible Provider List (S & I List). (42 C.F.R. § 438.602(d)).
- C. If the Contractor finds a party that is excluded, it must promptly notify the Department, as specified in Exhibit A, Attachment 8, Section 11 above, and the Department will take action consistent with 42 C.F.R. section 438.610(d). (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(a)(2) and (4)). The Contractor shall not certify or pay any excluded provider with Medi-Cal funds, and any such inappropriate payments or overpayments may be subject to recovery and/or be the basis for other sanctions by the appropriate authority.

4. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Compliance Program

- A. The Contractor must report fraud and abuse information to the Department. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(a)(7).)
- B. The Contractor, or any subcontractor, to the extent that the subcontractor is delegated responsibility by the Contractor for coverage of services and payment of claims under this Contract, shall implement and maintain a compliance program designed to detect and prevent fraud, waste and abuse that must include:
 - 1) Written policies, procedures, and standards of conduct that articulate the organization's commitment to comply with all applicable requirements and standards under the Contract, and all applicable Federal and state requirements.
 - 2) A Compliance Officer (CO) who is responsible for developing and implementing policies, procedures, and practices designed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Contract and who reports directly to the Behavioral Health Director and Board of Supervisors, or CEO and the Board of Directors (BoD).

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- 3) A Regulatory Compliance Committee (RCC) on the BoD and at the senior management level charged with overseeing the organization's compliance program and its compliance with the requirements under the Contract.
- 4) A system for training and education for the CO, the organization's senior management, and the organization's employees for the federal and state standards and requirements under the Contract.
- 5) Effective lines of communication between the CO and the organization's employees.
- 6) Enforcement of standards through well-publicized disciplinary guidelines.
- 7) The establishment and implementation of procedures and a system with dedicated staff for routine internal monitoring and auditing of compliance risks, prompt response to compliance issues as they are raised, investigation of potential compliance problems as identified in the course of self-evaluation and audits, correction of such problems promptly and thoroughly (or coordination of suspected criminal acts with law enforcement agencies) to reduce the potential for recurrence, and ongoing compliance with the requirements under the Contract. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608 (a)(1)).

5. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Fraud Reporting Requirements

- A. The Contractor, or any subcontractor, to the extent that the subcontractor is delegated responsibility by the Contractor for coverage of services and payment of claims under this Contract, shall implement and maintain arrangements or procedures designed to detect and prevent fraud, waste and abuse that include prompt reporting to the Department's Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Program Integrity Unit at bhpiu@dhcs.ca.gov about the following:
 - 1) Any potential fraud, waste, or abuse. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(a)(7)).
 - 2) All overpayments identified or recovered, specifying the overpayments due to potential fraud. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608 (a)(2)). Contractor shall comply with the overpayment recovery provisions in Exhibit A, Attachment 3, Section 6 ("Recovery of Overpayments").
 - 3) Information about changes in a member's circumstances that may affect the member's eligibility including changes in the member's residence or the death of the member. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608 (a)(3)).

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- 4) Information about a change in a network provider's circumstances that may affect the network provider's eligibility to participate in the managed care program, including the termination of the provider agreement with the Contractor. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608(a)(4)).
- B. If the Contractor identifies an issue or receives notification of a complaint concerning an incident of potential fraud, waste or abuse, in addition to notifying the Department, the Contractor shall conduct an internal investigation to determine the validity of the issue/complaint, and develop and implement corrective action, if needed.
- C. The Contractor shall implement and maintain written policies for all employees of the Contractor, and of any subcontractor or agent, that provide detailed information about the False Claims Act and other Federal and state laws, including information about rights of employees to be protected as whistleblowers. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608 (a)(6)).

6. Suspension of Provider Payments

- A. If a provider is under investigation by DHCS or any other state, local or federal law enforcement agency for fraud or abuse, DHCS may temporarily suspend the provider pursuant to W&I Code sections 14043.36(a). DHCS may also issue a payment suspension to a provider pursuant to W&I Code § 14107.11 and 42 C.F.R. section 455.23.
 - 1) {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} The Contractor shall implement and maintain arrangements or procedures that include providing for the Contractor's suspension of payments to a contracted provider for which there is a credible allegation of fraud. (42 C.F.R. §§ 455.23 and 438.608 (a)(8)).
- B. Information about a provider's administrative sanction status is confidential until such time as the action is either completed or resolved.
 - 1) {DMC and DMC-ODS only} With respect to DMC providers, Contractor shall execute the Confidentiality Agreement, attached as Document 5A. The Confidentiality Agreement permits DHCS to communicate with Contractor concerning contracted DMC providers that are subject to administrative sanctions.

7. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Service Verification

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. section 438.608(a)(5), the Contractor, and/or any subcontractor, to the extent that the subcontractor is delegated responsibility by the Contractor for coverage of services and payment of claims under this Contract, shall implement and maintain arrangements or procedures designed to detect and prevent fraud, waste and abuse that include provisions to verify, by

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sampling or other methods, whether services that have been represented to have been delivered by network providers were received by members and the application of such verification processes on a regular basis. (42 C.F.R. § 438.608 (a)(5)).

8. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Disclosures

A. Disclosure of 5% or More Ownership Interest:

- 1) Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. section 455.104, Medicaid managed care entities must disclose certain information related to persons who have an ownership or control interest in the managed care entity, as defined in 42 C.F.R. section 455.101. The parties hereby acknowledge that because the Contractor is a political subdivision of the State of California, there are no persons who meet such definition and therefore there is no information to disclose.
 - i. In the event that, in the future, any person obtains an interest of 5% or more of any mortgage, deed of trust, note or other obligation secured by Contractor, and that interest equals at least 5% of Contractor's property or assets, then the Contractor will make the disclosures set forth in this section, and subsection 2(a), below.
 - ii. The Contractor will disclose the name, address, date of birth, and Social Security Number of any managing employee, as that term is defined in 42 C.F.R. section 455.101. For purposes of this disclosure, Contractor may use the business address for any member of its Board of Supervisors.
 - iii. The Contractor shall provide any such disclosure upon execution of this Contract, upon its extension or renewal, and within 35 days after any change in Contractor ownership or upon request of the Department.
- 2) The Contractor shall ensure that its subcontractors and network providers submit the disclosures below to the Contractor regarding the network providers' and subcontractors (disclosing entities') ownership and control.
 - i. The Contractor's providers must submit disclosures to the Contractor upon submitting the provider application, before entering into a provider agreement with Contractor, before renewing a provider agreement with Contractor and within 35 days after any change in the subcontractor/network provider's ownership, annually and upon request during the

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re-validation of enrollment process under 42 C.F.R. section 455.104. The information included in the disclosures shall be current as of the time submitted.

- ii. {DMC-ODS only} For providers of SUD services, these disclosures shall be provided through the DMC certification process as described in Exhibit A, Attachment. 8, Section 9.
- iii. Disclosures to be Provided:
 - a. The name and address of any person (individual or corporation) with an ownership or control interest in the network provider. The address for corporate entities shall include, as applicable, a primary business address, every business location, and a P.O. Box address;
 - b. Date of birth and Social Security Number (in the case of an individual);
 - c. Other tax identification number in the case of a corporation with an ownership or control interest in the disclosing entity (or fiscal agent or managed care entity) or in any subcontractor in which the disclosing entity (or fiscal agent or managed care entity) has a 5 percent or more interest;
 - d. Whether the person (individual or corporation) with an ownership or control interest in the Contractor's network provider is related to another person with ownership or control interest in the same or any other network provider of the Contractor as a spouse, parent, child, or sibling; or whether the person (individual or corporation) with an ownership or control interest in any subcontractor in which the disclosing entity (or fiscal agent or managed care entity) has a 5 percent or more interest is related to another person with ownership or control interest in the managed care entity as a spouse, parent, child, or sibling;
 - e. The name of any other disclosing entity (or fiscal agent or managed care entity) in which the Contractor, subcontractor, or network provider has an ownership or control interest; and

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- f. The name, address, date of birth, and Social Security Number of any managing employee of the managed care entity.
 - 3) For each provider in Contractor's provider network, the Contractor shall provide the Department with all disclosures before entering into a network provider contract with the provider and annually thereafter and upon request from the Department during the re-validation of enrollment process under 42 C.F.R. section 455.104.
 - 4) FFP shall be withheld from the Contractor if it fails to disclose ownership or control information as required by this section. (42 C.F.R. § 455.104(f)).
- B. Disclosures Related to Business Transactions – the Contractor must submit disclosures and updated disclosures to the Department or HHS including information regarding certain business transactions within 35 days, upon request.
 - 1) The following information must be disclosed:
 - i. The ownership of any subcontractor with whom the Contractor has had business transactions totaling more than \$25,000 during the 12-month period ending on the date of the request; and
 - ii. Any significant business transactions between the Contractor and any wholly owned supplier, or between the Contractor and any subcontractor, during the 5-year period ending on the date of the request.
 - iii. The Contractor must obligate Network Providers to submit the same disclosures regarding network providers as noted under subsection 1(a) and (b) within 35 days upon request.
- C. Disclosures Related to Persons Convicted of Crimes
 - 1) The Contractor shall submit the following disclosures to the Department regarding the Contractor's management:
 - i. The identity of any person who has an ownership interest in or is a managing employee of the Contractor who has been convicted of a crime related to federal health care programs. (42 C.F.R. § 455.106(a)(1) and (2)).
 - ii. The identity of any person who is an agent of the Contractor who has been convicted of a crime related to federal health care programs. (42 C.F.R. § 455.106(a)(1) and (2)). For this

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purpose, the word "agent" has the meaning described in 42 C.F.R. section 455.101.

- 2) The Contractor shall supply the disclosures before entering into the Contract and at any time upon the Department's request.
- 3) Network providers should submit the same disclosures to the Contractor regarding the network providers' owners, persons with controlling interest, agents, and managing employees' criminal convictions. Network providers shall supply the disclosures before entering into the contract and at any time upon the Department's request.

9. Contractor Monitoring of Contracted Providers

A. Contractor shall conduct ongoing monitoring of contracted providers (except out-of-network providers, if applicable) for compliance with the terms of this contract.

1) {Standalone DMC and DMC-ODS Contracts only}

- i. The Contractor shall conduct, at least annually (i.e., every 12-months), a programmatic and utilization review of DMC providers to assure covered services are being appropriately rendered. The annual review shall include an on-site visit of the DMC provider. Reports of the annual review shall be provided to DHCS' County/Provider Operations and Monitoring Branch at:

DHCS
Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS# 2621
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or by using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS.

- ii. The review reports shall be provided to DHCS within 14 calendar days of completion by the Contractor.

2) {Integrated Contracts only}

- i. Contractor must, at a minimum: (42 C.F.R. § 438.214(e))
 - a. Monitor compliance for each provider on an annual basis; and
 - b. Perform on-site monitoring at least once every three years for each organizational provider. (No on-site

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reviews are required for individual SMHS practitioners who contract directly with the Contractor.)

- ii. If a provider contracts with multiple Medi-Cal behavioral health contractors, Contractor may rely on a timely review completed by another Medi-Cal behavioral health contractor.
 - iii. Contractor shall submit a copy of their monitoring and audit reports to DHCS within two weeks of issuance. Reports should be sent by using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS.
- B. {Integrated Contracts only} If the Contractor identifies deficiencies or areas for improvement in a contracted provider's performance, the Contractor and the contracted provider shall take corrective action. For any identified compliance deficiencies, the Contractor shall submit to DHCS a Contractor-approved corrective action plan (CAP) for the contracted provider.(42 C.F.R. § 438.214(e))
- 1) The CAP shall include:
 - i. A description of corrective actions that will be taken by the Contractor to address findings, including actions required of contracted providers when applicable, and incremental milestones the Contractor will achieve in order to reach full compliance;
 - ii. The timeline for implementation and/or completion of corrective actions;
 - iii. Proposed evidence of correction that will be submitted to DHCS;
 - a. If the Contractor has evidence to support correction at the time the CAP is due, the Contractor shall submit the actual evidence of correction to DHCS.
 - iv. A mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of corrective actions over time; and
 - v. Behavioral Health Director or designee (e.g., compliance administrator) name, and the date of their approval of the CAP.
 - 2) The Contractor shall submit the Contractor-approved provider CAP to DHCS for approval using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS.

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- 3) DHCS will provide an Acknowledgement Letter within five business days to the Contractor with a copy to the provider. If DHCS does not approve the CAP, DHCS shall provide guidance on the deficient areas. Contractor shall submit an updated CAP to DHCS using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS., with a copy to the provider.
 - 4) The Contractor shall monitor and attest compliance and/or completion by providers with CAP requirements, including as required by any PSPP review. The Contractor shall attest to DHCS, using the form developed by DHCS, that the requirements in the CAP have been completed by the Contractor and/or the provider. Submission of DHCS Form 8049 by Contractor shall be accomplished within the timeline specified in the approved CAP, as noticed by DHCS.
- C. {DMC only} The Contractor shall, on a monthly basis, monitor the status of all contracted providers to ensure they maintain active enrollment in the DMC program and to check for triggering recertification events. The Contractor shall notify DHCS PED by e-mail at DHCSDMCRecert@dhcs.ca.gov within five business days of learning any of the following, whether during the monthly monitoring or following notice from the contracted provider:
- 1) A contracted provider's license, registration, certification, or approval to operate an SUD program or provide a covered service is revoked, suspended, modified, or not renewed by entities other than DHCS;
 - 2) A contracted provider surrenders its certification or closes its facility; or
 - 3) A contracted provider has a triggering recertification event, including but not limited to change in ownership, change in scope of services, remodeling of facility, or change in location.
- 10. {DMC and DMC-ODS only} State Monitoring - Postservice Postpayment and Postservice Prepayment Utilization Reviews**
- A. DHCS shall conduct Postservice Postpayment and Postservice Prepayment Utilization Reviews of the contracted DMC-Certified Providers to determine whether the services were provided in accordance with. as applicable, Exhibit A, Attachment 2C, Section 22 (DMC-ODS: "Requirements for Services"), or Attachment 2E, Section 8 (DMC: "Requirements for Provider Contracts and Subcontracts"). DHCS shall issue the PSPP report to the Contractor with a copy to the provider. The

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Contractor shall be responsible for their contracted providers and Contractor-operated programs to ensure any deficiencies are remediated pursuant to subsection B, below.

- B. The Department shall recover payments made if Postservice Postpayment Utilization Review uncovers evidence that the claim(s) should not have been paid, services have been improperly utilized, or requirements cited above in subsection A were not met.
- 1) All deficiencies identified by PSPP reports, whether or not a recovery of funds results, shall be corrected and the Contractor shall submit a Contractor-approved CAP. The CAP shall be submitted using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS within 60 days of the date of the PSPP report.
 - 2) {Integrated Contracts only} Contractor shall comply with the CAP procedures described above in Section 9.C. The Contractor shall attest the deficiencies have been remediated and are complete, pursuant to section 9, above.
 - 3) {Standalone DMC and DMC-ODS Contracts only}
 - i. The CAP shall:
 - a. Be documented on the DHCS CAP template
 - b. Provide a specific description of how the deficiency shall be corrected
 - c. Identify the title of the individual(s) responsible for:
 - d. Correcting the deficiency
 - e. Ensuring on-going compliance
 - f. Provide a specific description of how the provider will ensure on-going compliance.
 - g. Specify the target date of implementation of the corrective action.
 - ii. DHCS shall provide written approval of the CAP to the Contractor with a copy to the subcontractor. If DHCS does not approve the CAP, DHCS will provide guidance on the deficient areas and request an updated CAP. The subcontractor shall revise the CAP and submit it to the Contractor for review and approval. The Contractor shall submit a revised Contractor-approved CAP to DHCS within 30 days of the DHCS notification.

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- iii. If the subcontractor does not submit an initial or revised CAP to the Contractor, or does not implement the approved CAP provisions within the designated timeline, then DHCS may withhold funds from the Contractor until the subcontractor is in compliance. DHCS shall inform the Contractor when funds will be withheld.
 - iv. The Contractor shall monitor and attest compliance and/or completion by subcontractors with CAP requirements as required by any PSPP review. The Contractor shall attest to DHCS, using the form developed by DHCS, that the requirements in the CAP have been completed by subcontractor. Submission of DHCS Form 8049, as identified in this section, by the Contractor shall be accomplished within the timeline specified in the approved CAP, as noted by DHCS.
- C. The Contractor may appeal demands for recovery of payment and/or programmatic deficiencies of specific claims. Such appeals shall be handled as follows:
- 1) Requests for first-level appeals:
 - i. The Contractor shall initiate action by submitting a letter to DHCS:
 - a. Behavioral Health Compliance Section Chief Medical Review Branch, Audits and Investigations Division
DHCS PO Box 997413, MS 2621 Sacramento, CA 95899-7413
 - ii. The Contractor shall submit the letter on the official stationery of the Contractor and it shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Contractor.
 - iii. The letter shall identify the specific claim(s) involved and describe the disputed (in) action regarding the claim.
 - a. The letter shall be submitted to the address listed in subsection (a) above within 90 calendar days from the date the Contractor received written notification of the decision to disallow claims.
 - b. The Department shall acknowledge Contractor letter within 15 calendar days of receipt.

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- c. The Department shall inform the Contractor of the Department's decision and the basis for the decision within 15 calendar days after the Department's acknowledgement notification. The Department shall have the option of extending the decision response time if additional information is required from the Contractor. The Contractor will be notified if the Department extends the response time limit.
- D. A Contractor may initiate a second level appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals (OAHA).
 - 1) The second level process may be pursued only after complying with first-level procedures and only when:
 - i. The Department has failed to acknowledge the grievance or complaint within 15 calendar days of its receipt, or
 - ii. The Contractor is dissatisfied with the action taken by the Department where the conclusion is based on the Department's evaluation of the merits.
 - 2) The second-level appeal shall be submitted to the Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals within 30 calendar days from the date the Department failed to acknowledge the first-level appeal or from the date of the Department's first-level appeal decision letter.
 - 3) All second-level appeals made in accordance with this section shall be directed to:

Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals (OAHA)
3831 N. Freeway Blvd., Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95834
 - 4) In referring an appeal to the OAHA, the Contractor shall submit all of the following:
 - i. A copy of the original written appeal sent to the Department.
 - ii. A copy of the Department's Audit Report to which the appeal applies. If received by the Contractor, a copy of the Department's specific finding(s), and conclusion(s) regarding the appeal with which the Contractor is dissatisfied.
- E. The appeal process listed here shall not apply to those grievances or complaints arising from the financial findings of an audit or examination made by or on behalf of DHCS pursuant to Exhibit B.

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- F. The Department shall monitor the contracted provider's compliance with Contractor utilization review requirements. The federal government may also review the existence and effectiveness of DHCS' utilization review system.
- G. Contractor shall, at a minimum, implement and maintain compliance with the requirements described in Exhibit A, Attachment 2C, Section 22 for the purposes of reviewing the utilization, quality, and appropriateness of covered services and ensuring that all applicable Medi-Cal requirements are met.
- H. Contractor shall ensure that contracted provider sites keep a record of the members/patients being treated at that location.

11. {DMC and DMC-ODS only} Reporting Complaints

- A. All complaints received by the Contractor regarding a DMC-Certified provider shall be forwarded to DHCS using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS within two business days of completion.
- B. {DMC-ODS only} Complaints for Residential Adult Alcoholism or Drug Misuse Recovery or Treatment Facilities, and counselor complaints may be made by using the Complaint Form, which is available and may be submitted online: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/Sud-Complaints.aspx>.
- C. {DMC only} Report suspected Medi-Cal Fraud to DHCS's Program Integrity Unit at bhpiu@dhcs.ca.gov
- D. {DMC only} Complaints for licensed, adult alcoholism or drug misuse recovery or treatment facilities, or Alcohol and/or Other Drug (AOD) Certified Treatment Facilities shall be addressed to:

Department of Health Care Services
Licensing and Certification Division
P.O Box 997413., MS# 2601
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413
Email: SUDcomplaints@dhcs.ca.gov
Public Number: (916) 322-2911
Toll Free Number: (877) 685-8333

The Complaint Form is available and can be submitted online at:
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/Sud-Complaints.aspx>.

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The Contractor shall be responsible for investigating complaints and providing the results of all investigations to DHCS using a Secure Managed File Transfer system specified by DHCS.

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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

1. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Data Submission/ Certification Requirements

- A. The Contractor shall submit any data, documentation, or information relating to the performance of the entity's obligations as required by the State or the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services. (42 C.F.R. § 438.604(b).) The individual who submits this data to the state shall concurrently provide a certification, which attests, based on best information, knowledge and belief that the data, documentation and information is accurate, complete and truthful. (42 C.F.R. § 438.606(b) and (c).) The data, documentation, or information submitted to the state by the Contractor shall be certified by one of the following:
- 1) The Contractor's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
 - 2) The Contractor's Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
 - 3) An individual who reports directly to the CEO or CFO with delegated authority to sign for the CEO or CFO so that the CEO or CFO is ultimately responsible for the certification. (42 C.F.R. § 438.606(a).)

2. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Encounter Data

The Contractor shall submit encounter data to the Department at a frequency and level specified by the Department and CMS, including as specified in Exhibit A, Attachment 4, Section 2. (42 C.F.R. § 438.242(c)(2).)

3. [Reserved]

4. Network Adequacy and Timely Access

The Contractor shall submit, in a manner and format determined by the Department, documentation to demonstrate compliance with the Department's requirements for availability and accessibility of services, including the adequacy of the provider network, as described in Exhibit A, Attachment 8. (42 C.F.R. § 438.604(a)(5).)

5. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Information on Ownership and Control

The Contractor shall submit for state review information on ownership and control for the Contractor, subcontractors, and network providers, as described in 42 C.F.R. section 455.104 and Exhibit A, Attachment 13, Section 8. (42 C.F.R. § 438.604(a)(6).)

6. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Annual Report of Overpayment Recoveries

The Contractor shall submit an annual report of overpayment recoveries in a manner and format determined by the Department. (MHSUDS IN 19-034; 42 C.F.R §§ 438.604(a)(7), 438.608(d)(3).)

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7. {SMHS and DMC-ODS only} Performance Data

A. In an effort to improve the performance of the State's managed care program, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. section 438.66(c), the Contractor will submit the following to the Department (42 C.F.R. § 438.604(b).):

- 1) Enrollment data;
- 2) Member grievance and appeal logs;
- 3) Provider complaint and appeal logs;
- 4) The results of any member satisfaction survey;
- 5) The results of any provider satisfaction survey;
- 6) Performance on required quality measures;
- 7) Medical management committee reports and minutes;
- 8) The Contractor's annual quality improvement plan;
- 9) Audited financial and encounter data; and
- 10) Customer service performance data.

B. The Contractor shall cooperate with DHCS to provide and report quality measures per the 1915(b) Special Terms and Conditions and the Comprehensive Quality Strategy.

8. Parity in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

The Contractor shall submit to the Department, upon request, any policies and procedures or other documentation necessary for the State to establish and demonstrate compliance with 42 C.F.R. part 438, subpart K, regarding parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

9. {DMC and DMC-ODS only} Additional Reporting Requirements Regarding SUD Services

A. California Outcomes Measurement System (CalOMS) for Treatment (CalOMS-Tx)

- 1) Contractor shall comply with the CalOMS-Tx data collection system requirements for submission of CalOMS-Tx data or contract with a software vendor that complies with this requirement. If applicable, a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) shall be established between the Contractor and the software vendor. The BAA shall state that DHCS is allowed to return the processed CalOMS-Tx data to the vendor that supplied the data to DHCS.

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- 2) Contractor shall conduct information technology (IT) systems testing and pass state certification testing before commencing submission of CalOMS-Tx data. If the Contractor subcontracts with vendor for IT services, Contractor is responsible for ensuring that the subcontracted IT system is tested and certified by the DHCS prior to submitting CalOMS-Tx data. If Contractor changes or modifies the CalOMS-Tx IT system, then Contractor shall re-test and pass state re-certification prior to submitting data from new or modified system.
- 3) Electronic submission of CalOMS-Tx data shall be submitted by Contractor within 45 days from the end of the last day of the report month.
- 4) Contractor shall comply with data collection and reporting requirements established by the DHCS CalOMS-Tx Data Collection Guide (Document 3J), all former Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs Bulletins, and all applicable DHCS Information Notices relevant to CalOMS-Tx data collection and reporting requirements, including BHIN 24-030.
- 5) Contractor shall submit CalOMS-Tx admission, discharge, annual update, resubmissions of records containing errors or in need of correction, and “provider no activity” report records in an electronic format approved by DHCS.
- 6) Contractor shall comply with the CalOMS-Tx Data Compliance Standards established by DHCS identified in (Document 3S) for reporting data content, data quality, data completeness, reporting frequency, reporting deadlines, and reporting method.
- 7) Contractor shall participate in CalOMS-Tx informational meetings, trainings, and conference calls.
- 8) Contractor shall implement and maintain a system for collecting and electronically submitting CalOMS-Tx data.
- 9) Contractor shall meet the requirements as identified in Exhibit F, Business Associate Addendum and Exhibit F, Attachment I – Social Security Administration Agreement.

B. CalOMS-Tx General Information.

- 1) If the Contractor experiences system or service failure or other extraordinary circumstances that affect its ability to timely submit CalOMS-Tx data, and or meet other CalOMS-Tx compliance requirements, Contractor shall report the problem in writing by

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secure, encrypted e-mail to DHCS at: ITServiceDesk@dhcs.ca.gov, before the established data submission deadlines. The written notice shall include a remediation plan that is subject to review and approval by DHCS. A grace period of up to 60 days may be granted, at DHCS' sole discretion, for the Contractor to resolve the problem before non-DMC payments are withheld.

- 2) If DHCS experiences system or service failure, an extension equal to the number of business days of the system or service failure shall be granted for the Contractor's late data submission.
- 3) Contractor shall comply with the treatment data quality standards established by DHCS. Failure to meet these standards on an ongoing basis may result in withholding DMC funds.
- 4) If the Contractor submits data after the established deadlines, due to a delay or problem, the Contractor shall still be responsible for collecting and reporting data from time of delay or problem.

C. Drug and Alcohol Treatment Access Report (DATAR).

- 1) The Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that all contracted providers submit a monthly DATAR report in an electronic copy format as provided by DHCS.
- 2) The Contractor shall ensure that perinatal treatment providers who reach or exceed 90 percent of their dedicated capacity report this information to DHCSPerinatal@dhcs.ca.gov within seven days of reaching capacity.
- 3) The Contractor shall ensure that all DATAR reports are submitted to DHCS by contracted providers the 10th of the month following the report activity month.
- 4) The Contractor shall ensure that all contracted providers are enrolled in DHCS' web-based DATAR program for submission of data, accessible on the DHCS website when executing the subcontract.
- 5) If the Contractor or its subcontractor experiences system or service failure or other extraordinary circumstances that affect its ability to timely submit a monthly DATAR report, and/or to meet data compliance requirements, the Contractor shall report the problem in writing before the established data submission deadlines by writing a secure, encrypted email to SUDDATARSupport@dhcs.ca.gov.

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- 6) If DHCS experiences system or service failure, an extension equal to the number of business days of the system or service failure shall be granted for the Contractor's late data submission.

- 7) [Reserved]

D. {DMC-ODS only} Provider-Preventable Conditions

- 1) The Contractor shall comply with the requirements mandating provider identification of provider-preventable conditions as a condition of payment, as well as the prohibition against payment for provider-preventable conditions. The Contractor shall report all identified provider-preventable conditions to the Department.
- 2) The Contractor shall not make payments to a contracted provider for provider-preventable conditions that meet the following criteria:
 - i. Is identified in the State Plan.
 - ii. Has been found by the State, based upon a review of medical literature by qualified professionals, to be reasonably preventable through the application of procedures supported by evidence-based guidelines.
 - iii. Has a negative consequence for the member beneficiary.
 - iv. Is auditable.
- 3) The Contractor shall use and submit the report using the DHCS DMC-ODS Provider Preventable Conditions Reporting Form at the time of discovery of any provider preventable conditions that are covered under this provision to:

Department of Health Care Services
Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division
1500 Capitol Avenue, MS-2623
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or by secure, encrypted email to: ODSSubmissions@dhcs.ca.gov

10. Failure to Meet Reporting Requirements

- A. Contractor agrees that DHCS has the right to withhold payments until Contractor has submitted any required data and reports to DHCS, as identified in Exhibit A or as identified in Document 1F(a), Reporting Requirement Matrix for Counties. (W&I Code § 14197.7(o)(1); BHIN 22-045.)

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- B. Upon identifying a failure to meet required reporting requirements, DHCS shall issue a Notice of Deficiency to Contractor regarding specified providers with a deadline to submit the required data and a request for a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to ensure timely reporting in the future. DHCS shall approve or reject the CAP or request revisions to the CAP, which shall be resubmitted to DHCS within 30 days.
- C. If the Contractor has not ensured compliance with the data submission or CAP request within the designated timeline, then DHCS may withhold funds until all data is submitted. DHCS shall inform the Contractor 30 days in advance of when funds will be withheld. (BHIN 22-045.)
- D. The Contractor may appeal the imposition of a temporary withhold pursuant to W&I Code section 14197.7, subdivisions (k) and (m) and BHIN 22-045 or any subsequent Departmental guidance. (W&I Code § 14197.7(o)(2).)