

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week March 7, 2022

State Issues	
2022 Newly Introduced Bills	The Alliance continues to review the newly-introduced bills and will provide its 2022 Legislative Summary and Status report in an upcoming Update.
Secretary of Health and Human Services Interview on COVID	Dr. Mark Ghaly, head of California's Health and Human Services Agency sat down for a 30-minute interview with Kaiser Health News Senior Correspondent Samantha Young hosted by the Sacramento Press Club. Young spoke with Ghaly, Governor Gavin Newsom's top health adviser, about the Administration's plans for moving forward as COVID case rates and hospitalizations ebb. Vaccines, testing, and masking are all part of the Governor's strategy as COVID becomes endemic and Californians learn to live with the virus – all covered in the interview. You can access the interview video here .
LA Care Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan Receives Hefty Fine by State	<p>Last Friday, the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) and the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) levied \$55 million in fines against L.A. Care, the state's largest Medi-Cal managed care plan. The departments' investigations found several serious violations by the plan, including L.A. Care's handling of enrollee grievances, the processing of requests for authorization, and inadequate oversight and supervision of its contracted entities regarding timely access.</p> <p>L.A. Care's systemic failure to timely process prior authorizations for health care services delayed members' access to necessary health care services and had a detrimental impact on its members. Examples of patient harm caused by authorization delays include a cancer patient's health deteriorating, a plan member suffering extreme, untreated/chronic pain for over two weeks, and another cancer patient given a prognosis of six to nine months to live who disenrolled from L.A. Care because of treatment delays.</p> <p>In addition, L.A. Care had a systemic failure to issue resolution letters to members who filed a grievance with the plan. L.A. Care was found to have failed to timely respond to more than 67,000 grievances for several lines of business, including Medi-Cal. Finally, DMHC/DHCS investigations found that L.A. Care failed to maintain sufficient organizational and administrative capacity to provide services to members. L.A. Care also failed to accurately and fully disclose the full extent of its case processing backlog and past violations.</p>

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