

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of July 3, 2023

State Issues

<p>Legislative Leadership Changes</p>	<p>On Monday, in his first full day as Assembly Speaker, Assembly Member Robert Rivas announced some new committee assignments and leadership posts. There were a few Committee changes of particular interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assembly Member Akilah Weber will replace Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula as chair of the Budget Subcommittee on Health, on the Assembly Budget Committee, on the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and Budget Subcommittee on Budget Process, Oversight and Program Evaluation. Both Arambula and Weber continue to sit on the Health Committee. As a reminder, Dr. Arambula announced he was vying to be Speaker after the Assembly had already voted in support of Rivas, during that interim time before Rivas took office. These latter committee changes would seem to be the consequences of that effort. ▪ Assembly Member Esmeralda Soria will join the Appropriations Committee and now chairs the Agriculture Committee. Soria is a freshman legislator who represents Madera Hospital and has been active in the work this year with distressed hospitals. ▪ No changes to the Health Committee were made, retaining Jim Wood as the Chair. In addition, Chris Holden continues to be the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. <p>The Speaker also announced a new Assembly Leadership Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assembly Member Isaac Bryan will replace Assembly Member Eloise Gomez Reyes as Majority Leader. ▪ Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry will be the Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly. She will be responsible for leading the Floor proceedings. She continues to sit on the Health Committee. ▪ Majority Whip is now Lori Wilson and Democratic Caucus Chair in Rick Zbur. <p>Other than Aguiar Curry, the members of the new Rivas leadership team are all relatively new members (elected within the last 2 years).</p>
<p>Anticipated Behavioral Health Reform</p>	<p>Governor Newsom and key Legislators have unveiled a plan to update the policies included in California’s Mental Health Services Act, coupled with a \$4.68 billion bond measure for the March 2024 ballot. According to the Governor, together they would provide California the resources needed to build 10,000 new beds across community treatment</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(more)</i></p>

<p>Anticipated Behavioral Health Reform <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>campuses and facilities to help Californians with serious mental illness and substance use disorders get the housing and care they need.</p> <p>Governor Newsom, in partnership with Senator Susan Eggman (D-Stockton) and Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks), announced a legislative package that will focus on housing to help ensure Californians can access critical behavioral health services, including housing and treatment for substance use disorders – making good on a decades-old promise by state leaders.</p> <p>Two bills have been introduced: SB 326 (Eggman) and AB 531 (Irwin) that will focus on five solutions to transform California’s behavioral health system through housing with accountability and reform with results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reforming key behavioral health care funding to provide services to the most seriously ill and to treat substance use disorders▪ Building a workforce to reflect and connect with California’s diversity▪ Focusing on outcomes, accountability, and equity▪ Housing and behavioral health treatment in unlocked, community-based settings▪ Housing for veterans with behavioral health challenges <p>Combined, this legislative package is designed to build out the State’s capacity to provide behavioral health care, housing, and good jobs for Californians – with a focus on accountability.</p> <p>You can access the Fact Sheet here.</p> <p>The hope is these reforms will complement and build upon California’s behavioral health expansion and reform efforts, including the creation of CARE Court, to provide a continuum of care – from prevention and early intervention to outpatient, crisis, inpatient, and supportive care. The two bills will work their way through the Legislature in the coming months. The behavioral health legislative package will go to the voters for approval in March 2024, after consideration and approval by Legislature and Governor Newsom’s signature in 2023.</p>
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For more information, please contact Lori Dangberg at 1215 K Street, Suite 2000 ▪ Sacramento, CA 95814
916.591.3991 or e-mail: ldangberg@thealliance.net