

SB 323 (MITCHELL): MEDI-CAL: FQHC'S & RURAL HEALTH CENTERS: DRUG MEDICAL & SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

POSITION: The Chamber's Healthcare Committee voted to SUPPORT SB 323 on April 14, 2017.

STATUS: Senator Holly Mitchell introduced SB 323 on February 13, 2017. It passed out of the Senate Committee on Health on April 19th, and will be heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

AT-A-GLANCE

SB 323 would authorize federally qualified health centers (FQHC's) and rural health clinics (RHC's) to receive reimbursement from county specialty mental health plans and through Drug Medi-Cal under the terms of a contract between the FQHC and RHC and the County.

SUMMARY

SB 323 would authorize federally qualified health centers (FQHC's) and rural health clinics (RHC's) to receive reimbursement from county specialty mental health plans and through Drug Medi-Cal under the terms of a contract between the FQHC and RHC and the County.

ANALYSIS

This bill was introduced to allow for community clinics to provide substance use disorder treatment services and specialty mental health services to vulnerable communities by adding Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) program and specialty mental health services to the types of care the FQHCs and RHCS can be provide, contract and be reimbursed for. Under the recently approved DMC-ODS waiver, counties have the option to expand their DMC benefit package and have begun to work with FQHCs and RHCs to ensure program development. However, current PPS payment system rules appear to constrain the ability of clinics to provide the full spectrum of DMC and specialty mental health services by limiting type of service, type of provider, and location where services may be offered. This bill, according to the author, is necessary for clarification purposes to ensure that clinics can begin to work with counties to lower the cost of care and assist individuals before they become acute and require emergency care.

SUPPORT

- Community Health Advocates
- Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
- Borrego Health
- California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
- Community Clinic Consortium

OPPOSE

None received

