California
Behavioral Health Policy Forum

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Challenges

- The ODF Waiver is strictly a County opt-in system which allows the Counties to have vastly different plans.
- The mental health carve out and waiver leaves a bifurcated mental health delivery system with many clients either on the boundary or bouncing from one system to another, which impacts client care as well as information sharing.
- Pushing mental health treatment for the SMI population into a more primary care/medical service delivery model may not always be clinically appropriate.
Strategies

• For the ODF Waiver challenge:
  – Propose and fund a uniform system for all clients.

• For the carve out:
  – A Health Information Exchange or requiring all MCPs to contract with the full County network for serving full spectrum.

• For the SMI integration with Primary Care:
  – Funding at a different rate for SMI clients, allowing adequate time and resources for seeing a client with serious mental illness.
Thank You

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