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Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 14: COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE: PATIENT NAVIGATORS.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS RECEIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES THROUGH THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES. THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM IS, IN PART, GOVERNED AND FUNDED BY FEDERAL MEDICAID PROGRAM PROVISIONS. ONE OF THE METHODS BY WHICH THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IS PURSUANT TO CONTRACTS WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS. EXISTING FEDERAL LAW PROVIDES FOR THE FEDERAL MEDICARE PROGRAM, WHICH IS A PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER AND SPECIFIED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE UNDER 65 YEARS OF AGE.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, THE COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE, PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS THAT ENABLE BENEFICIARIES DUALLY ELIGIBLE FOR THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM AND THE MEDICARE PROGRAM TO RECEIVE SERVICES THAT MAXIMIZE ACCESS TO, AND COORDINATION OF, BENEFITS BETWEEN THESE PROGRAMS. UNDER EXISTING LAW, INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BOTH PROGRAMS IN COUNTIES PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ARE ENROLLED IN A MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLAN THAT COMBINES THEIR MEDICARE AND MEDI-CAL BENEFITS.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THESE MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS TO EMPLOY TRAINED PATIENT NAVIGATORS WHO WOULD PROVIDE DUALLY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WITH PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE, CONTINUITY OF CARE, AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO SERVICES.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

AP 14: RELATING TO THE COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, THE GOAL OF THE COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE IS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERY TO THE STATE’S LOW-INCOME SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES; AND

WHEREAS, INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BOTH MEDICARE AND MEDI-CAL EXPERIENCE FRAGMENTED CARE THROUGH MULTIPLE SERVICE PROVIDERS WITH SCANT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CAREGIVERS; AND

WHEREAS, THE COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BOTH MEDICARE AND MEDI-CAL BY REDUCING INEFFICIENCIES FROM UNNECESSARY MEDICAL TESTING AND MEDICATIONS, AND BY SHIFTING SERVICE DELIVERY FROM INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS TO HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE; AND

WHEREAS, DUALLY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS ARE BEING ENROLLED IN MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN EIGHT COUNTIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND

WHEREAS, FOR MANY OF THESE ENROLLEES, THE TRANSITION TO THE MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS IS CONFUSING; AND

WHEREAS, PATIENT NAVIGATORS WOULD SERVE TO PROVIDE THESE ENROLLEES WITH PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE AS THEY TRANSITION INTO THE MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS; AND

WHEREAS, PATIENT NAVIGATORS WOULD HELP REDUCE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING APPROPRIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW SYSTEM AND ITS BENEFITS; AND

WHEREAS, PATIENT NAVIGATORS WOULD ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH INTERPRETING UNIQUE VOCABULARY USED BY THE VARIOUS PROVIDERS; AND

WHEREAS, PATIENT NAVIGATORS WOULD HELP OVERCOME MISTRUST OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM; AND

WHEREAS, THE COST OF THE PATIENT NAVIGATORS COULD BE PAID BY THE HEALTH CARE PLANS; AND

WHEREAS, THE PEOPLE SERVED BY THE COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST NEED POPULATIONS IN THE STATE WITH MULTIPLE CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS; AND

WHEREAS, PATIENT NAVIGATORS WOULD GREATLY ASSIST THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES BY REDUCING FRUSTRATION AND CONFUSION, AND WOULD RESULT IN THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2015 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS PARTICIPATING IN THE COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE BE REQUIRED TO EMPLOY TRAINED PATIENT NAVIGATORS TO PROVIDE DUALLY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WITH PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE, CONTINUITY OF CARE, AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO SERVICES; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.