IMPLEMENTING THE MEDI-CAL TRANSFORMATION JUSTICE-INVOLVED INITIATIVE (1115 WAIVER) AND LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Medi-Cal currently provides health insurance coverage to nearly 1,000,000 people in San Diego County.

Almost 1 out of 3 people in San Diego County are Medi-Cal members.

37,142 adults and 562 youth/young adults reentered the community from San Diego County jails and youth detention facilities in 2022.

It is estimated that over 75% of people returning to the community from California prisons, jails, and youth detention facilities are eligible for Medi-Cal.

COORDINATING CARE

Historically, there have been challenges in coordinating between Medi-Cal, prisons, local jails, youth detention facilities, and other health care partners.

The Centers for Medicare & the “inmate exclusion policy” prohibit the use of Medicaid funds for people who are incarcerated.

This has contributed to poor connection to physical and behavioral health care (including appointments and medications) for people leaving prisons, jails, and youth detention facilities.

Through the Section 1115 Waiver, California is the first state approved to provide Medi-Cal coverage & services to eligible justice-involved adults and youth in state prisons, county jails, and youth detention facilities.

JUSTICE-INVOLVED REENTRY INITIATIVE

Key components of the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative include:

- Ensuring individuals have active Medi-Cal upon release
- Linkages to behavioral health services
- Access to 90-day pre-release services
- Connection to Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports

JUSTICE-INVOLVED REENTRY INITIATIVE TIMELINE

January 1, 2023

- Pre-Release Medi-Cal Enrollment

January 1, 2024

- ECM for the JI Population in the community

October 1, 2024

- Behavioral Health Links go-live for BH Agencies

October 1, 2024-Sept 30, 2026

- 90-Day Pre-Release Services go-live for correctional agencies

PRE-RELEASE MEDI-CAL ENROLLMENT

- Through AB 133, California statute mandated all counties to implement pre-release application processes in State prisons, county jails and youth detention facilities by January 1, 2023.
- Pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment processes help ensure Medi-Cal coverage upon reentry into the community to facilitate access to needed Medi-Cal covered services and care.
- The County of San Diego has enhanced practices to support pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment processes.

For more details, see [Bill Text - AB-133 Health. (ca.gov)]

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LINKS

- Correctional facilities, behavioral health agencies, and Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) are required to implement facilitated referrals and links to behavioral health services in the community for individuals who have mild, moderate, and severe behavioral health conditions while incarcerated.

- Behavioral health links include referrals and professional-to-professional clinical handoffs to community providers.

- Bi-directional data sharing is required between correctional facilities and behavioral health providers, and the individual's Medi-Cal health plan.

90-DAY PRE-RELEASE MEDI-CAL SERVICES

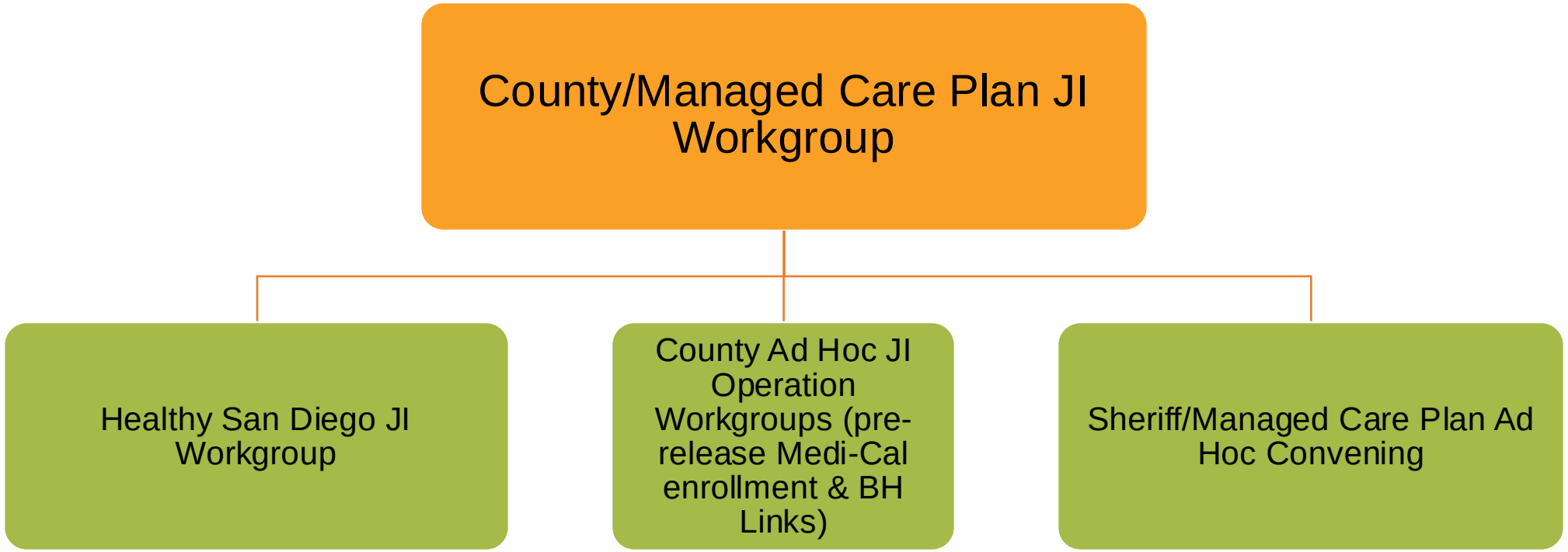
- On January 26, 2023, California became the first state in the nation approved to offer a defined set of Medi-Cal services to youth and adults in State prisons, county jails, and youth detention facilities for up to 90 days prior to release.
- 90-day pre-release services include:
  - Care management/Reentry planning
  - Physical and behavioral health clinical consultation services
  - Lab and radiology
  - Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
  - Community Health Worker services
  - Medications (30-day supply upon release)
  - Durable Medical Equipment

ENHANCED CARE MANAGEMENT

- When 90-day pre-release services go-live, JI ECM Providers will be required to meet virtually or in-person with the Medi-Cal member prior to release and work with the correctional facility's pre-release care manager for a 'warm handoff'.
- The JI ECM provider will be able to bill the pre-release visit through Fee-For-Service Medi-Cal.
- The JI ECM provider will continue to provide ECM services to the member in the community and the JI ECM provider will be paid through the Medi-Cal Managed Care once the Medi-Cal member returns to the community.

IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

The County of San Diego developed a cross-sector, collaborative approach to improve San Diego County's wellness delivery system.



PANEL QUESTIONS

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Lessons Learned & Recommendations

- Provide feedback (i.e., Policy and Operational Guide for CalAIM JI Initiative)
- Dedicate full-time staff to support implementation
- Seek consultant support
- Designate a liaison/facilitator
- Identify the SMEs within each department and MCPs
- Establish workgroups
- Engage with your State Department of Health Care Services and other counties
- Collaboratively map out current state, future state, identify gaps and develop new policies and workflows
- Identify all available funding (PATH JI and MAA)

THANK YOU!

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