

## **Designing and Implementing Improvements that Will Benefit Individuals Involved in the Criminal Justice System Who Have Behavioral Health Needs**

Brenda Grealish, MA

Level:

Track: Words to Deeds

Room: Cypress

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (1.5)

### Narrative

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) launched a bold Medi-Cal redesign initiative, called Medi-Cal Healthier California for All, aiming to create a Medi-Cal program of the future – one where people can get the care they need, when they need it, where administration and finances are streamlined, the right care is incentivized, and behavioral health care is integrated.

This presentation will cover the basics:

- supporting the right care in the right place through streamlined medical necessity criteria
- integrating the administration and financing of specialty mental health and substance use services – ultimately in support of integrating clinical care
- considering pursuing a waiver of the Institutions for Mental Disease exclusion to support a robust continuum of care
- supporting regional models to integrate physical, behavioral and dental health
- supporting Medi-Cal enrollment and behavioral health “warm-hand-offs” prior to jail release
- adding new enhanced care management benefits and wrap-around services for the highest risk individuals – including housing supports.

DHCS will invite feedback from participants to help inform the direction of the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All initiative, particularly focused on the unique behavioral health needs of individuals involved with the criminal justice system.

### Bio

#### **Brenda Grealish, MA**

Brenda Grealish has over 20 years of State of California experience and is currently serving as the Chief of the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division where she is responsible for overseeing the planning, implementation, and evaluation of DHCS Medi-Cal mental health and substance use disorder services, programs, and policies. Additionally, she served as Acting Deputy Director and Assistant Deputy Director, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services/Behavioral Health, from January 1, 2015, through August 4, 2019. Prior to this, Brenda served as Chief of the former Mental Health Services Division. Ms. Grealish was responsible for planning, organizing, and directing program operations and policy formulation for all Medi-Cal and non Medi-Cal community mental health services, as well as administration of the Specialty Mental Health Services 1915 (b) waiver and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration mental health block grant. Brenda earned a Master’s Degree in Psychology from the California State University, Sacramento, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of California, Davis.

### Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to discuss the importance of right care in the right place through streamlined medical necessity criteria
- Participants will be able to discuss the importance of integrating the administration and financing of specialty mental health and substance use services – ultimately in support of integrating clinical care
- Participants will be able to explain the waiver of the Institutions for Mental Disease exclusion to support a robust continuum of care
- Participants will be able to describe regional models to integrate physical, behavioral and dental health
- Participants will be able to discuss the importance of supporting Medi-Cal enrollment and behavioral health “warm-hand-offs” prior to jail release
- Participants will be able to explain the concept of adding new enhanced care management benefits and wrap-around services for the highest risk individuals – including housing supports.