



# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
SUSAN L. HOLT  
DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
PUBLIC GUARDIAN

May 12, 2023

The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) wants to extend appreciation to our contract partners for the tireless work and careful attention to timeliness as we rapidly move toward the statewide shift to payment reform. This shift has necessitated that DBH bring an Amendment to the Individual and Group Provider Agreement before the Board of Supervisors. As you are all aware, this is a monumental undertaking for DBH. We recognize the impact this transition has on our Individual and Group providers, and we are proud to work with in the provision of mental health and substance use services in Fresno County.

In the roll-out of payment reform, DBH was clear that there would be a very tight timeline for us to meet the County deadlines for submission of this amendment. The first deadline of May 5, 2023 has passed. As a result, DBH leadership and the Managed Care team will not be able to bring the amendment to the Board of Supervisors by the June 6, 2023 Board date. DBH will now be presenting the amendment for approval at the June 20, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting date. This shift is not ideal for DBH or our providers. Delaying to the last meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Fiscal Year (FY) 22-23 on June 20<sup>th</sup>, leaves DBH with absolutely no room for modifications if the Supervisors raise a question or an objection to the item. If we do not obtain Board of Supervisor approval at the June 20, 2023 meeting, the Department will have no mechanism to pay providers for services rendered beginning July 1, 2023 forward. This inability to pay for services will remain until a new Board date is set in the FY 23-24 calendar. Additionally, it is important to understand that there will be no retroactive payment opportunities.

It is imperative that you understand the impact of missing the deadlines below and your ability to continue working with Fresno County. This will result in an inability to pay for services beginning July 1, 2023 up to and including termination of your contract.

The final deadline for acknowledged approval of the amendment language is close of business Thursday, May 18, 2023. Additionally, the final day to submit signatures is by close of business Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Managed Care at [mcare@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:mcare@fresnocountyca.gov), Francisco Escobedo at [fescobedo@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:fescobedo@fresnocountyca.gov) and Meng Moua at [mmoua@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:mmoua@fresnocountyca.gov). We also encourage all parties to participate in our DBH Office Hours for Individual and Group providers every Friday at 8:15 AM or 4 PM.

Thank you again,

Susan Holt, LMFT  
Director of Behavioral Health

CC: Marcelia Black, LSCW, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health  
Francisco Escobedo, Managed Care Coordinator  
Meng Moua, Senior Staff Analyst

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