



LDH Secretary: An Unfortunate, Disappointing, and Unprecedented Day

May 11, 2018

The LA Department of Health (LDH) is mailing approximately 37,000 letters to Medicaid enrollees informing them their eligibility **MAY** end on July 1, 2018 due to budget cuts currently included in House Bill 1 passed by the House of Representatives. Almost ten thousand people with developmental disabilities receiving home and community-based waiver services or living in a residential facility (ICF/DD) are included in this number. People enrolled in the Special Income Level, Medically Needy, Medically Needy Spend Down, and Provisional Medicaid Programs will be impacted if the legislature does not restore funding to these programs by replacing revenue that will expire June 30th in a Special Legislative Session.

In a press conference on Wednesday LDH Secretary Rebekah Gee said, "Today is a really unfortunate, disappointing, and unprecedented day." She said her heart is breaking over the need to send these notices, however, "we cannot provide services with no money to pay for them; we simply cannot." She added, "The budget cut is so substantial - \$1.8 billion to LDH - that we simply cannot function as we did before with this budget and we need to take action."

LDH has established a page on their website dedicated to providing updated information to individuals and families on these potential changes. The Council encourages you to visit the site [here](#) where the letter to recipients, frequently asked questions, the number of people impacted in each category, and Wednesday's press conference are all posted. New information will be posted as it becomes available. The Medicaid Call Center is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday. Anyone with questions about their individual eligibility is encouraged to call the center at 1-888-342-6207.

The Council also strongly encourages all individuals with disabilities, families, friends and advocates to **contact their legislators** and communicate the need for sufficient revenue to save these and all other programs slated for elimination or cuts in LDH's budget. In addition to the Special Income Level Program which allows thousands of people with developmental disabilities to receive waiver or ICF/DD services, people with disabilities also depend on many other LDH services also being cut such as hospitals, mental health services and Pediatric Day Health Care Centers. **ALL of these cuts CAN BE AVOIDED if the legislature provides the necessary funding. Take action today!**

Contact Us

LaDDC News is the electronic newsletter for the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information above, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

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