



**To:** Medi-Cal PCPs, IPAs, PHP & IOP Partners  
**From:** IEHP – Jarrod McNaughton, CEO  
**Date:** May 21, 2026  
**Subject:** **A Special CEO Message: Adult Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)**

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Dear Providers,

We are writing to provide clarity regarding IEHP’s recent transition of coverage for adult Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) behavioral health services.

### **What is Changing—and What is Not**

IEHP is not ending access to PHP or IOP services for our members. Rather, effective May 1, 2026, IEHP transitioned financial responsibility for new adult Medi-Cal referrals for PHP/IOP to the county Specialty Mental Health Plans (MHPs), consistent with state direction on the appropriate level of care and payer responsibility for these services.

Existing IEHP member authorizations approved prior to May 1 will continue uninterrupted through completion of the treatment course and remain reimbursable by IEHP to avoid any disruption in care. Programs under IEHP Covered and PHP/IOP services for members under age 21 are not impacted by this transition.

### **Why The Transition Was Made**

This transition reflects direct DHCS guidance and our contractual understanding that adult PHP/IOP services constitute Specialty Mental Health levels of care provided through county behavioral health departments. IEHP worked with Riverside and San Bernardino counties for several months to confirm their capacity to support similar services and to coordinate member pathways into care.

DHCS All Plan Letter (APL) 22-006 explains the responsibilities for Medi-Cal managed care plans for the provision of medically necessary non-specialty mental health covered services. County Mental Health Plans are contractually required to provide or arrange for the provision of medically necessary Specialty Mental Health Services for members who have significant impairment or a reasonable probability of functional deterioration due to a diagnosis or suspected mental health disorder. DHCS clarified to IEHP that PHP/IOP services are considered Specialty Mental Health Services.

### **Ensuring Timely Access and Continuity of Care**

Although the counties maintain financial responsibility for this level of care and for ensuring timely access, IEHP’s role does not end with a carve-out. These are our members, and we remain actively engaged with county partners and providers to coordinate care, discuss individual cases when necessary, and facilitate smooth transitions from inpatient and other settings into PHP/IOP. IEHP will continue to work directly with the counties to ensure medically necessary services are provided.

## Next Steps

- Providers may refer members directly to County Behavioral Health for PHP/IOP services by sending a complete [Transition of Care Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services](#) to [DGBHCountyCareCoordination@iehp.org](mailto:DGBHCountyCareCoordination@iehp.org). The Transition of Care Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services form is also available at [providerservices.iehp.org](http://providerservices.iehp.org) > Resources for Providers > Forms > BH.
- To reach County Specialty Mental Health Services directly, please call:
  - Riverside County: RUHS-BH CARES at (800) 499-3008
  - San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health at (888) 743-1478
- If you have any questions or would like to discuss how this transition may impact your organization or the members you serve, our Integrated Transitional Care Behavioral Health Team is standing by to support you. Please reach out to [dgitcbehavioralhealth@iehp.org](mailto:dgitcbehavioralhealth@iehp.org)

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to your patients and our community. We remain committed to providing timely and compassionate access to care for our members.

With gratitude,



If you have any questions, please contact the IEHP Provider Call Center at (909) 890-2054, (866) 223-4347, or email [ProviderServices@iehp.org](mailto:ProviderServices@iehp.org)

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