



## **CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG-TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS (CCLTSS)**

August 8, 2018

Seema Verma, Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
[Seema.Verma@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Seema.Verma@cms.hhs.gov)

**RE: California's Request to Extend Authority for the Cal MediConnect Demonstration Through December 31, 2020 - SUPPORT**

Dear Administrator Verma,

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is comprised of 38 statewide aging and disability organizations that promote dignity and independence in long-term living. Our members include advocates, providers, labor, and health insurers and collectively we represent millions of California seniors and people with disabilities, their caregivers, and those who provide health, human services, and housing.

We are writing in support of the California Department of Health Care Services' June 20, 2018 request to extend the Cal MediConnect dual demonstration project through December 31, 2020.

Cal MediConnect was launched in 7 California counties in 2014 to coordinate all medical, behavioral health, long-term institutional and home- and community-based services through a single organized delivery system. The program currently serves 115,000 dually eligible beneficiaries, and has resulted in a number of important outcomes to date: 85% of participants are satisfied with care coordination they receive through the program and 85% say they are usually or always able to receive needed care. In addition, there has been a 28% reduction of days in long-term care; an 18% reduction in inpatient days and an 11% reduction in emergency department visits.

We believe that the extension is justified by these preliminary outcomes. We also recommend a requirement for a robust stakeholder process and increased transparency of program performance data should be added to the program along with the extension. These measures will help the program continue to advance in key areas, including improving the reach of care coordination, use of continuity of care provisions, better notification practices and addressing unmet needs for personal care assistance.

Finally, we are concerned about the introduction of brokers into the program. This policy change was approved over stakeholder objections, and we believe that increased oversight of broker conduct is necessary to safeguard against potentially harmful outcomes that could result.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW

For the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports

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