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May 6, 2025

RE: AB 403 - Medi-Cal: community health worker services (Support)

Dear California Department of Public Health:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), which represents the appointed physician health officers of California's 61 city and county jurisdictions, would like to express our recommendation to **support AB 403**. On May 1, 2025, the CCLHO Board of Directors voted to approve the support recommendation.

Existing law requires Medi-Cal managed care plans, under the guidance of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), to engage in outreach and education to enrollees about the existence of the community health worker (CHW) benefit and how enrollees can participate. As of July 1, 2022, CHW services are a covered Medi-Cal benefit. CHWs serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

AB 403 requires DHCS, beginning July 1, 2027, to provide an annual report to the Legislature and the public on the usage of and the outreach being done on the CHW Medi-Cal benefit. CCLHO supports this bill because the required analysis will provide insight into why the CHW benefit is underutilized and how to improve engagement and outreach efforts.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise CDPH, other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature, and other organizations on all matters affecting health.

Sincerely,

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH

President