

 **NOSSAMAN** LLP | Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair  
Assembly Health Committee

FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

DATE: June 14, 2024

RE: **SB 1397 (Eggman) Behavioral health services coverage – SUPPORT**

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The County of Monterey is pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 1397 by Senator Susan Eggman. This measure establishes a mechanism for county behavioral health agencies to recoup reimbursement from commercial plans for privately insured clients referred to services through Full Service Partnerships (FSPs).

FSPs provide comprehensive, intensive, community-based services and case management to those facing severe mental health conditions and play a critical role in preventing long-term institutionalization. All counties offer FSP services, which are unique for their low staff to client ratio, 24/7 availability, and “whatever it takes” approach tailored to the individual needs of a client. FSPs have been proven to help prevent costly hospitalizations, criminal justice involvement, and homelessness among clients.

Although the primary focus of county behavioral health agencies is to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries, they often serve the commercially insured who are unable to access certain specialty behavioral services through their commercial insurance, including crisis intervention services, first episode psychosis, FSPs, or other critical behavioral health services. Although counties fund services to individuals with commercial plans to the extent resources are available, they must prioritize their Medi-Cal plan responsibilities.

This bill is simply assuring that counties that provide behavioral health services through a Full Service Partnership within the county system will be timely reimbursed for their services at the contracted rate or the fee-for-service or case reimbursement rate paid in the Medi-Cal specialty behavioral health program for the same or similar services as identified by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

SB 1397 will create a reimbursement mechanism for county behavioral health agencies to recover the costs of providing lifesaving behavioral health services to commercially insured clients through FSPs. It is for these reasons that the County of Monterey supports SB 1397. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey’s Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,



Ashley Walker  
Nossaman LLP

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CC: Hon. Marie Susan Eggman, Author, California State Senate  
Members, Assembly Health Committee  
Consultant, Assembly Health Committee  
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, Author  
Hon. John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. Speaker Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)