

**Liz Ramirez**

---

**Subject:** Notice to be sent to out stakeholders

**From:** DHCS Medi-Cal for Families [<mailto:medi-calforfamilies@dhcs.ca.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2014 04:01 PM

**To:** DHCS Medi-Cal for Families <[medi-calforfamilies@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:medi-calforfamilies@dhcs.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Gable, Kennalee (DHCS-HCP-MED) <[Kennalee.Gable@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Kennalee.Gable@dhcs.ca.gov)>; Wajda, Christine (DHCS-HCP-MCED) <[Christine.Wajda@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Christine.Wajda@dhcs.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: notice to be sent to out stakeholders

Dear Stakeholders:

The purpose of this email is to provide an update on a new premium payment notification that will be sent out to approximately 46,000 beneficiaries statewide this month. Please forward this information to other interested parties.

Beginning the week of June 23, the Department of Health Care Service (DHCS) Medi-Cal Eligibility Division will be mailing notices to Medi-Cal Optional Targeted Low Income Program (OTLICP) premium T series aid code beneficiaries, informing the families of the requirement to pay a monthly premium of \$13 per child per month (or \$39 for all children in the family per month for three or more children). This notice is being sent by the administrative vendor MAXIMUS to families, because the initial OTLICP eligibility notification generated from CalHEERS did not advise families about the premium payment requirements.

The first mailing will be sent to beneficiaries who became eligible during the period of January through May 2014 that have not paid premiums in those months due to lack of noticing and the need for system updates to allow for billing. The mailing will be sent out on a flow basis during the week of June 23rd to reduce the impact to toll-free line operations for the counties and MAXIMUS. The beneficiaries will not be billed retroactively; invoices sent starting in July will only bill for prospective months. Going forward, the noticing will occur for any newly eligible premium OTLICP beneficiaries until such time that CalHEERS programming has been updated with this information.

The notice of action states that the families are required to pay a premium for children who are ages 1-19 with a family income between 160 and 266 of the federal poverty level and that the premiums are \$13 per child and no more than \$39 for a family per month. It also identifies the names of the children in the family who have this Medi-Cal coverage and are subject to premium payments. The families are alerted that they will receive a separate billing statement within the next 60 days and that their first payment is not due until after they receive the first billing statement. It provides the Premium-Payment Section telephone number, 1-800-880-5305 that beneficiaries can call if they have questions regarding their premiums. If they have questions regarding their Medi-Cal eligibility, the family is directed to call their county office and a list is provided with phone numbers.

The notice also includes the premium payment options and discounts available to them depending on the option they choose. Included in the notice is the NA Back 9 should they wish to request a hearing. The NA Back 9 form would be sent back to State Hearings Division in Sacramento. The notices are sent in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese to reach the majority of Medi-Cal households. A multilingual notice is also included in the mailing.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please forward them to the [medi-calforfamilies@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:medi-calforfamilies@dhcs.ca.gov) email inbox.

Headline: State Lawmakers Want To Overhaul Mental Health Programs

Reported/produced by: Deirdre Kennedy  
Publication: *California Healthline*  
Date posted: June 11, 2014

State lawmakers have pitched a multi-million dollar plan to overhaul mental health programs in the criminal justice system -- at a time when many people are calling for ways to head off more violence like the Isla Vista rampage. This is *California Healthline*, a daily news service of the California HealthCare Foundation. I'm Deirdre Kennedy.

The mental health proposal is based on a new study that calls California's prison system a warehouse for the mentally ill. Stanford's Three Strikes Project published the report and State Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg presented its findings and recommendations at a press conference last month.

***(Steinberg): "The Stanford report lays out three key priorities for addressing the callous and inhumane warehousing of people with mental illness in our criminal justice system. One, reform the way we sentence people with mental illness. Two, provide more meaningful treatment and three, establish a process and criteria for humane releases."***

The new approach would fund additional mental health courts and calls for more lenient sentencing for non-violent offenders with the option of going into a community-based mental health program.

Steinberg's announcement came on the heels of last month's mass shooting in Isla Vista near Santa Barbara, when a 23-year-old man with a history of mental illness killed six people including himself. Democrat Hannah-Beth Jackson represents the state Senate district where the shootings took place.

***(Jackson): "How do we stop this before it happens? This was a young man whose mental illness was right out there on YouTube and right out there on Facebook and in screeds that he posted on blogs and yet no one did or was able potentially to recognize the behavior, the potential for violence that resulted in this mass set of murders."***

Officials say laws are already on the books to prevent such violence in future. For instance, anyone can report that someone is in danger of harming themselves or others.

And Los Angeles County, for one, has already improved its mental health screenings at intake and expanded its diversion programs. Kathleen Piché, spokesperson for the Department of Mental Health, says DMH staff work in tandem with the courts to make sure that every single person who goes through the system has access to treatment. The county can make recommendations but it can't medicate inmates without their consent.

***(Piché): "The program will assist anyone with a mental illness. That would include creating and securing treatment alternatives to incarceration, as well as any needs while they're in jail. The court liaisons work intimately with mental health staff in these efforts too."***

Los Angeles requires crisis intervention training for all first responders and it also trains its public library staff how to handle a mental health crisis.

It has also deployed special mental health teams to 18 cities across the county that respond to 911 calls involving behavior or mental issues. Linda Boyd is a program manager of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health who says mental health professionals can often spot behavioral problems that might not be apparent to police officers at the front door.

***(Boyd): "The one disease that we still give people the right to make choices about is when their brain is really ill and we say it's OK, you still can choose to have this horrible quality life. And yet I'm not in favor of forcing treatment on everybody."***

The National Alliance on Mental Illness encourages families to inform public health agencies and police of any history of troubling behavior. Under California law, police can detain someone for observation for 72 hours if they pose danger to themselves or others. Ratan Bhavnani is executive director of NAMI in Ventura County.

***(Bhavnani): "Privacy is important, but health privacy laws sometimes stand in the way of treatment for folks with mental illness. We teach family members to provide information and when someone's brain is not working well, as in the case of mental illness, these privacy laws mean nothing."***

Boyd says if police in Isla Vista had watched the threatening YouTube videos the suspect's parents reported, they could have confiscated his weapons and kept him off the street. Meanwhile, the fate of Steinberg's spending plan will be clear when the state budget negotiations finish this month.

This has been an audio report for *California Healthline*, a daily news service of the California HealthCare Foundation. If you have feedback or other issues you'd like to have addressed, please email us at [CHL@CHCF.org](mailto:CHL@CHCF.org). I'm Deirdre Kennedy, thanks for listening.

A Coalition-Wide Event Hosted in Partnership with  
THE CONSORTIUM FOR RISK-BASED FIREARM POLICY

# FROM VIRGINIA TECH to ISLA VISTA

New Approaches to  
Keeping Guns from People  
with Dangerous Intentions

To RSVP:

<http://bitly.com/vpc07082014>

[rsvp@vpcgla.org](mailto:rsvp@vpcgla.org)

## PANELISTS:

**Billie Weiss, MPH** - Founder, Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

**Josh Horwitz, JD** - Executive Director, Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence

**Jeffrey Swanson, PhD** - Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Duke University School of Medicine

**Shannon Frattaroli, PhD, MPH** - Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Amy Barnhorst, MD** - Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of California, Davis

**Garen Wintemute, MD, MPH** - Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of California, Davis



violence  
prevention  
coalition

greater  
los angeles

# TUESDAY, JULY 8th, 1-2:30pm

**The California Endowment, Redwood Room**

1000 N. Alameda St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sponsored by the Consortium for Risk-Based Firearm Policy, the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, the CA Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Violence Policy Center, Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, and Women Against Gun Violence