

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION NO.** 20-31

**RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE'S  
PARTICIPATION IN THE MEDICAID  
IMD EXCLUSION WAIVER**

**WHEREAS**, under the U.S. health care system, there have been significant gaps in health care coverage for the treatment of mental illnesses which disproportionately affect low income individuals in need of mental health treatment. Currently, federal Medicaid funding cannot be used for institutional services provided to adults between ages 21 to under age 65 with serious mental illness (SMI), known as the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion.

**WHEREAS**, the IMD exclusion prohibits states from receiving Medicaid payments for individuals in an IMD that are between the ages of 21-64 years. The law defines an IMD as a “hospital, nursing facility, or other institution of more than 16 beds that is primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services.”

**WHEREAS**, in 1965, the Social Security Act was amended to establish the federal Medicaid and Medicare programs. The IMD exclusion was built into the foundation of the Medicaid program via these and subsequent amendments to the Social Security Act. The intent of the IMD exclusion was to prevent states from shifting the responsibility and costs of inpatient psychiatric care to the federal government via the Medicaid program.

**WHEREAS**, as outlined in Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services may authorize a state to conduct experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that, in the judgement of the Secretary, is likely to assist in promoting objectives of the Medicaid program.


**WHEREAS**, in November 2018, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) announced that the federal government would begin to consider state applications for a waiver of the IMD exclusion which would allow Medicaid coverage for IMD treatment to those who suffer from SMI.

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid is the largest payer of mental health services and expansion of this coverage would be critical to those who are in need. As a County, we must explore all funding options to support the goal of providing mental health treatment and services to County residents in need.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the County of Santa Barbara does hereby determine that expansion of the Medicaid program for IMD treatment to those who suffer from a severe mental illness is critical to those in need, including but not limited to some of County's most vulnerable residents, and urges the State to apply for a waiver from the IMD Exclusion allowing for the expansion of Medicaid coverage to the excluded population in need of inpatient mental health treatment. The Board furthermore directs Dr. Alice Gleghorn, Director of Behavioral Wellness of the County of Santa Barbara, to send this approved Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom and to the California Department of Health Care Services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25<sup>TH</sup> day of February, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:   5   NOES:   0   ABSTENTIONS:   0   ABSENT:   0  

  
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GREGG HART, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**ATTESTS:**  
MONA MIYASATO, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By:  (SEAL)  
Deputy Clerk