



See What's Happening With The California Health Benefits Review Program!

See What's
New



Academic Rigor On A Legislature's Timeline

Letter From The Director

Welcome to CHBRP's Fall Newsletter.

It is sobering to step back and consider the events of the past 20 months, and reflect on what has been a tumultuous time in politics, policy, public health, science, and our natural environments. It is a lot. On the health side, the prevalence of depression during the pandemic has been found to be three times higher than it was before the pandemic, according to [a Journal of the American Medical Association study](#). While steadily rising COVID-19 vaccination rates have improved our collective prospects, many challenges remain. The pandemic continues to be a threat to the physical health and well-being of many Californians. We hope all of our readers are taking extra steps to take good care and recharge batteries as we move into flu season.



At CHBRP, we are happy to share some exciting news. CHBRP has been reauthorized, via [Assembly Bill 1082](#) (Waldron), until 2027, signed by Governor Newsom on October 6, 2021. We deeply appreciate the demonstrated support provided to the program on a bipartisan basis. We look forward to continuing to provide support to decision-makers on matters relating to health policy and health insurance, drawing from the expertise of faculty, researchers, and analysts at the University of California and beyond. We thank the Legislature, legislative staff, state agencies, and critical stakeholders for this opportunity to provide in-depth, unbiased analyses on health insurance-related legislation. I also wish to thank the University of California for sponsoring our legislation, and Assemblymember Marie Waldron and her staff for carrying AB 1082 over the finish line.

This fall, CHBRP is at work preparing for the next legislative season, which may come early for us as two-year bills are heard in January. Our teams have been actively reviewing report templates, updating the California Cost and Coverage Model, and meeting virtually with many of our stakeholders. Our task force members, actuaries, and national advisory council members are convening (virtually) for multiple meetings this fall to discuss proposed changes and finalize our approach. We're making some modest tweaks to our website functionality, and have created a status document that shows the final status of bills that CHBRP analyzed.

Until next time, warm wishes for a healthy and prosperous fall season.

Garen

CHBRP Reauthorization (AB 1082)

CHBRP is thrilled to announce that Governor Gavin Newsom signed CHBRP's reauthorization legislation (AB 1082), carried by Assembly Member Marie Waldron and sponsored by the University of California. CHBRP is honored to have received unanimous support from the Legislature and we look forward to providing important analyses for many more years.


An updated authorizing statute is available on CHBRP's website under About CHBRP.

[Authorizing Statute](#)

Thank you to our 2021 Summer Interns

Working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, two graduate students completed Summer 2021 Internships with CHBRP. Both virtually met with CHBRP stakeholders, completed independent research projects, and supported CHBRP staff with updating key resources and materials.

We are grateful for their contributions and wish them the best of luck in their future studies and careers!





Chris Klene, MPH candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles, focused on creating an overview of balance billing and the federal No Surprises Act. He also helped to research the 2021-22 California state budget as well as racism in the health care delivery system. "Creating a workplan, conducting a literature review, simplifying complex ideas, and making revisions to the resource on a short timeline allowed me to hone my research, project management, and writing skills."



Katie Patrick, recent MPH graduate at the University of California, Berkeley, focused on creating a resource about deductibles to be referenced by CHBRP's deductible-related analyses. She also updated CHBRP key resources and collaborated with other interns and staff to research racism and health care. "My biggest takeaway from the internship experience is the importance of leadership and mentorship. The CHBRP staff offered mentorship which allowed me to discover what I value most in my professional career."



Welcoming our Undergraduate Student Assistant

We are pleased to welcome our Undergraduate Student Assistant, Victor Garibay. Victor was a 2021 Summer Intern, and CHBRP is excited to continue having him on board this year.



Victor Garibay is in his fourth year of pursuing his undergraduate degree in Public Health and Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. This past summer, he was a Health Career Connection Undergraduate Student Intern at CHBRP. He has previously interned for multiple clinics around the Bay Area, including Clinica de La Raza and Clinic by the Bay, working on both administration and translation. Victor also contributes to the Volunteer Health Interpreters Organization, an undergraduate student-led organization dedicated to eliminating language barriers when providing healthcare to underserved populations.

AcademyHealth SUPLN Adjunct Meeting

CHBRP is pleased to have provided a small sponsorship for the AcademyHealth [State-University Partnership Learning Network](#) (SUPLN) Adjunct Meeting. SUPLN collaborated with the State Health Research and Policy Interest Group to host the second annual virtual adjunct meeting, Research and Relevance in State Health Policy, on the afternoon of September 20th. Over 145 attendees participated in the virtual 2021 SUPLN Adjunct meeting. The meeting featured three presentation sessions on the following themes: COVID-19 and telehealth expansion in Medicaid; health disparities among Medicaid enrollees; and delivery system transformation and hospitals. Three



Research and Relevance in State Health Policy
Virtual SUPLN Adjunct Meeting

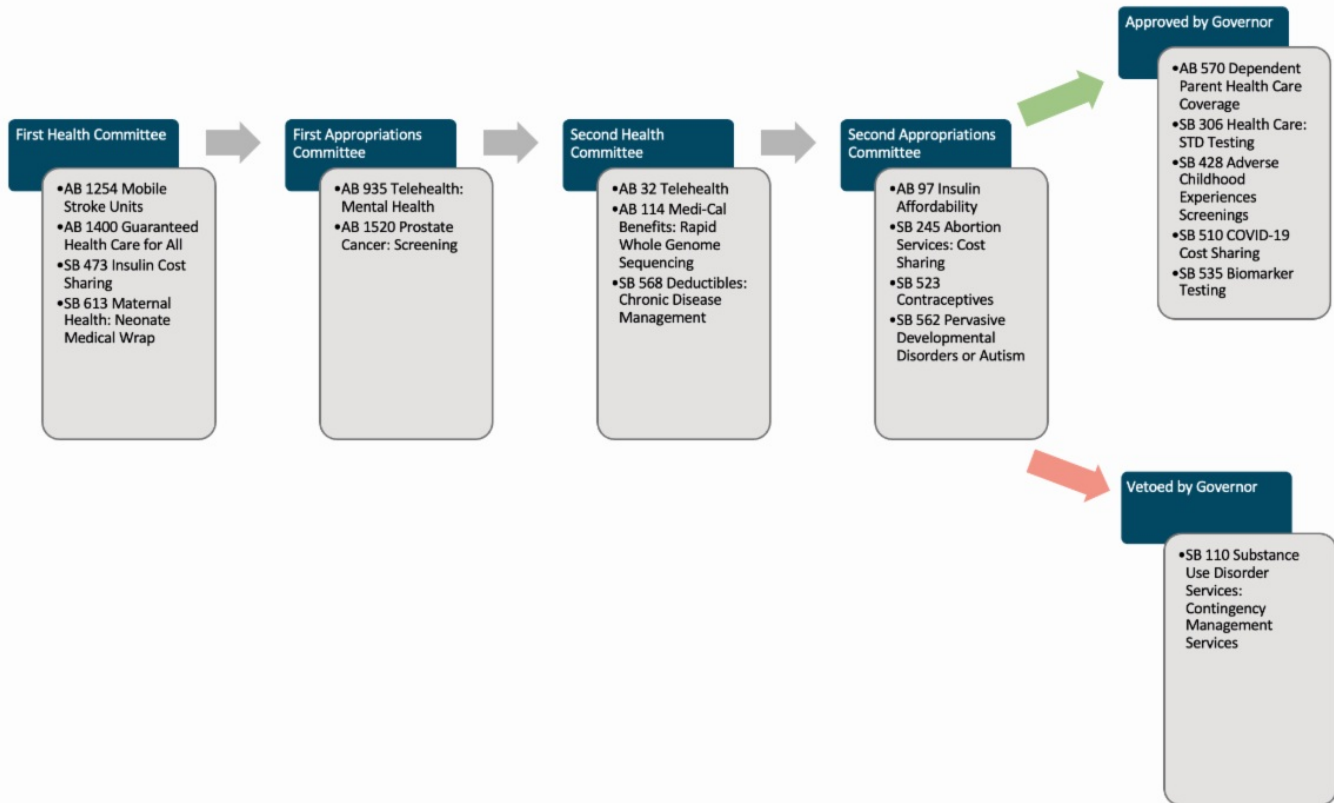
corresponding 'Data Blitz' sessions (series of rapid 2-slide presentations) followed each longer-format

presentation session.

CHBRP appreciates the opportunity to support the dissemination of research important for state policy makers and stakeholders.

2021 Completed Analyses - Final Status

In 2021, the Legislature requested that CHBRP analyze 19 bills. The following chart shows the final status of these bills, with each column indicating where the bills were located at the end of this year's legislative session.



Current as of October 22, 2021

Some bills analyzed by CHBRP in 2021 may become "two-year" bills, which are bills that are introduced in the first half of the two-year session but do not move through both houses before the interim recess. Two-year bills must clear their house of origin by January 31st of the second year.

Five bills analyzed by CHBRP were signed into law by Governor Newsom: **AB 570** Dependent Parent Health Care Coverage, **SB 306** Health Care: STD Testing, **SB 428** Adverse Childhood Experiences Screenings, **SB 510** COVID-19 Cost Sharing, and **SB 535** Biomarker Testing.

CHBRP has published a "Final Status" document that indicates the final version of each analyzed bill and the extent to which CHBRP's analyses remain relevant. This is available on CHBRP's website under Completed Analyses.

Completed Analyses

CHBRP Faculty Updates

Congratulations to two CHBRP Task Force Members for their recent career achievements!

Janet Coffman, PhD, MA, MPP has recently joined the leadership team of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies (PRL-IHPS) as a new Associate Director for Policy. She, along with fellow co-Director Beth Griffiths, MD, MPH, will lead the development and execution of programs and activities that aim to develop the capacity and skills of PRL-IHPS and UCSF faculty and staff to actively engage policymakers and influence policy at the local, state, and national levels. Additionally, Dr. Coffman also serves as the Co-Director of the Master of Science in Health Policy and Law Program with the UCSF/UC Hastings Consortium.

Dylan Roby, PhD, has recently joined the University of California, Irvine's Program in Public Health as an Associate Professor in the Department of Health, Society, and Behavior. Dr. Roby's research interests include health reform, insurance markets, and passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Welcome back to California!

Recently Published Documents

CHBRP has recently published or updated the following documents, available on CHBRP's website under Other Publications:

- **Explainer: An Overview of Claims Data and How CHBRP Estimates Utilization and Unit Cost** This document provides an overview of how claims data is collected, what information may be available within the datasets, and how the data are used to inform CHBRP's analyses.
- **Resource: Health Insurance Benefit Mandates in California State and Federal Law** This resource lists existing state and federal health insurance benefit mandate laws that may relate to the subject or purpose of a proposed state health insurance benefit mandate or repeal bill.

[Other Publications](#)

Task Force Spotlight

Each newsletter, CHBRP features two Task Force members and the important work they do outside of CHBRP. See more information about all of our Task Force members on CHBRP's website.

[CHBRP's Task Force](#)

Marilyn Stebbins, PharmD

Marilyn Stebbins is a professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco, and Vice Chair of Clinical Innovation. In her current role, she is responsible for developing innovative practice models for pharmacists in team-based care. Her clinical practice is in the Care Transitions Outreach Program, which involves transitions-of-care work for patients who have been discharged with medication-related issues (many of which are related to access and insurance issues but also medication questions and concerns). As a clinician, patient care and helping to problem-solve medication-related issues has always been rewarding, but Dr. Stebbins finds her work as a teaching clinician to be most exciting. She loves working with the next generation of pharmacists, teaching both didactically and clinically, and sharing her passions and experiences with students.



Dr. Stebbins' work with CHBRP primarily involves advising on pharmacy issues and pharmacy benefits for both the Medical Effectiveness and Cost teams. With her expertise in pharmacy benefit design and pharmacy utilization management, she brings an important perspective to CHBRP's work. As a Task Force member, she also reviews analytic drafts for a variety of topics, but mostly focuses on pharmacy-related reports. Dr. Stebbins finds her work with CHBRP's fellow Task Force Members to be most rewarding and interesting; team members are easy to work with, knowledgeable, and receptive. Everyone has always been respectful of each person's time and commitment to CHBRP, and she has found this work environment to be incredibly positive.

Since the start of her career, Dr. Stebbins has been interested in health policy as a way of solving the problems she saw with patient access to care. Early in her faculty career, she had colleagues in the School of Pharmacy that were involved in health policy and health services research, and she collaborated with them on bills related to health policy and pharmacy benefit design. She was also a utilization pharmacist in a medical group along with other clinicians for 17 years, during which she saw health policy in action and worked with insurance partners to develop utilization strategies that focused more on quality. Dr. Stebbins' work with health policy experts and health services researchers, coupled with her clinical practice and pharmacy benefit design and utilization experience, has provided her with well-rounded exposure to health policy from both a theoretical standpoint and an implementation standpoint.

Thus far in her career, Dr. Stebbins is most proud of her ability to step into roles that she had not initially trained for and to create innovative practice settings for pharmacists. She has developed a variety of practice settings in boots-on-the-ground managed care physician practices, in utilization management, and in patient care. Dr. Stebbins has always found it exciting to start new things and watch them flourish, and she has found it even more enriching to pass them on and move forward to develop something new again.

Penny Coppernoll-Blach is a Pharmacy Librarian at the University of California, San Diego Library, where she serves as the liaison to the Pharmacy students, faculty, and staff at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS). Additionally, Ms. Coppernoll-Blach is a guest lecturer in four of the SSPPS classes, teaching students how to use several licensed drug information databases as well as other library resources. She dedicates several hours a week working at UCSD's Reference Assistance Desk and is an active member of the University's Systematic Review service.



Ms. Coppernoll-Blach serves as one of the four librarians at CHBRP. She has been a part of CHBRP since 2004 and has been providing literature searches for the bills sent to CHBRP for analysis from the California Legislature. With the advent of internet services, she finds her position as a librarian necessary in order to provide expertise in selecting relevant peer-reviewed, scholarly information. Ms. Coppernoll-Blach enjoys finding very specific articles that are needed by each of the three CHBRP teams. She acknowledges that each team has very different goals, and sometimes the information is not easy to find or is only partially available, but she enjoys working with all the team members and also with the other librarians.

Ms. Coppernoll-Blach is most proud of helping thousands of students and health professionals find the information that they need in order to complete their research or projects. Before UCSD, she worked for a for-profit information retrieval service where she helped design and load databases. She is very familiar with searching databases like PubMed or Embase and has found that the bills to which she is assigned often need many other databases, such as Business Source Complete or PsycINFO or Web of Science, which has widened her window of search.

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