

January 30, 2026

Dear Child Caregivers and Child Welfare Partners,

Beginning **March 1, 2026**, the Fresno County Department of Social Services (DSS) will move forward with efforts to ensure that every child and youth in our care receives the most appropriate health care coverage for their individual needs.

As part of this work, **children entering foster care will remain with their current Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (MCP)**. There will be **no automatic changes** for children and youth who are currently in foster care.

Over the past several months, DSS has engaged in conversations with resource families through the annual *Let's Talk Conference*, Foster Parent Association meetings, and quarterly Foster Family Agency meetings. Your feedback has helped strengthen our approach and ensure that our decisions reflect the real experiences of families supporting our youth.

This transition aligns with the broader **CaAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal)** initiative, which aims to improve access, coordination, and health outcomes for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, particularly children and youth involved in child welfare.

For clarity:

- Children or youth **newly entering foster care** will remain with their Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan.
- Children and youth **currently in foster care** will remain on **Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service (also known as "Straight Medi-Cal")** unless it's in a child's best interest to transition to a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan.
- Fresno County's current managed care plans include **CalViva, Anthem, and Kaiser**.

What does this mean for you?

During each Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting, you can expect a discussion about the child or youth's Medi-Cal coverage to determine whether it continues to meet their needs.

If your child is currently enrolled in Fee-for-Service Medi-Cal, a transition to a Managed Care Plan may be considered. Any decision will be made collaboratively with you. Once a

plan is selected, you will receive detailed information about the health plan, provider network, and available support services from your Managed Care Plan.

If you have questions or concerns related to this transition, please contact the child or youth's assigned Social Worker, your Resource Family Approval Social Worker, or call reception at **(559) 600-6400**.

Sincerely,

**Department of Social Services
County of Fresno**

cc: Department of Behavioral Health