

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate, District 2

The Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly, District 4

Re: Oppose Proposal to Eliminate Mobile Crisis as a Statewide Medi-Cal Benefit and Shift Costs to Counties

Dear Senator McGuire and Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the Lake County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in strong opposition to the proposal to eliminate Mobile Crisis as a statewide Medi-Cal benefit and shift the non-federal share of the cost to counties. This change would create an immediate and unsustainable cost shift for counties and would place rural communities at significant risk of service reductions—at precisely the moment California has asked counties to build and sustain a modern, community-based behavioral health crisis response system.

Mobile Crisis is a core component of Lake County’s emergency response infrastructure. It supports public safety by responding to behavioral health crises in the field, reducing unnecessary law enforcement involvement, and diverting avoidable emergency department utilization when safe and clinically appropriate. It also strengthens system coordination by connecting individuals to stabilizing care and follow-up services.

If the statewide Mobile Crisis benefit becomes optional, counties will face an impossible choice: absorb substantial new costs locally or scale back response capacity. In small and rural counties like Lake, even modest funding instability risks immediate impacts—loss of 24/7 coverage, longer response times, and increased reliance on law enforcement, EMS, emergency departments, and the county jail system.

This proposal also cuts directly against California’s CalAIM and community-based crisis response goals by pushing crises back into higher-cost, less effective settings. After substantial state and county investments to establish Mobile Crisis teams and meet program requirements, removing stable statewide funding would destabilize the workforce and infrastructure that make this benefit possible.

We urge the Administration and Legislature to maintain Mobile Crisis as a statewide Medi-Cal benefit and to avoid shifting these costs to counties. Preserving this benefit protects public safety, supports timely access to crisis care, and prevents downstream system strain and higher costs across emergency and justice systems.

Sincerely,

Brad Rasmussen, Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors

CC: Michelle Baass, Director, Department of Health Care Services; Tyler Sadwith, State Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Services; County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) — Diana Luna (dluna@cbhda.org), Michelle Cabrera (mcabrera@cbhda.org)