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LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION GRANTS \$45,000 FOR MEDICALLY COMPLEX CHILDREN
California Children's Services Creates Inter-Agency Care Coordination Coalition

November 21, 2014 (San Leandro, CA) – The Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health recently awarded \$45,000 to the Alameda County California Children's Services (CCS) for a series of infrastructure enhancements to improve local systems of care coordination for children with special health care needs. The project will focus on streamlining the identification of behavioral health needs in children served by CCS and increasing referrals to mental health services. The hope is that improving the system for the most complex children will serve as a model that can be used with other populations of children in the county.

“A key component of improving the local system of care is to develop stakeholder coalitions that can clarify agency roles and institutionalize effective processes,” said Katie Schlageter, CCS Administrator, Deputy Division Director, Family Health Services. “These processes are critical if a system is to function in a coordinated manner. The Foundation's award is a testament to their progressive, forward-thinking investment in addressing the complex health conditions that face many of our communities' children.”

This funding will support improving the care coordination system for children served through CCS who have complex medical conditions and significant mental health care needs. Specifically, the grant will support the organization of an inter-agency coalition of key stakeholders; the development of referral protocols and pathways among key service providers; and the establishment of protocols to enhance billing and reimbursement for behavioral health services through CCS. All work will be performed from a family centered framework.

Specific project activities include assessment of system strengths and gaps and the creation of a service delivery road map. Medical, behavioral, and social and family support linkages that support integration and development of a leveraged financing model to support sustainability of the coalition also will be investigated.

Support will run from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

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California Children's Services is a program that assists children who have a serious medical condition and require specialty medical care. It provides medical case management to low-income children under 21 years of age with chronic and disabling medical conditions. CCS can help arrange and pay for hospital stays and doctor visits, medical equipment, medication, and other services. CCS strives to ensure that children receive appropriate and comprehensive care.