

**COHS Planning and Implementation Committee  
Meeting Notes  
April 25, 2008**

**In Attendance**

**Implementation Committee Members:** Naomi Fuchs, Joann Keyston, Jack Neureuter, Dianna Ball, Damon Doss, Irma Oregón, Nancy Oswald, Kirk Pappas, Don Ransom, Mary Maddux-González, Kim Seamans (for Marion Deeds), Michael Smith, , Madrone Williams, Joan Froess, Mary Szecsey

**Staff and Consultants:** Cliff Coates, Lynn Scuri

**Partnership HealthPlan:** Jack Horn

**Audience:** Rita Scardaci, Geza Kadar, Susan Keller, Benita McLarin, Dan Hull

**Absent:** Sean Gaskie, Michael Humphrey, Jim McSweeney, Paul Duranczyk, Barbara Graves, Ann McGee, Diane Kaljian, James Vaughn, Susan Zibblatt, Kelly Pfeifer

**Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**

Mary Maddux-Gonzalez opened the meeting and welcomed the Planning and Implementation Committee and guests and asked that individuals introduce themselves.

**Advocacy update**

Cliff briefed the group on the meeting with staff of four State legislators. Legislative staff present included Maddy Hirshfield (Assemblywoman Berg), Terry Price (Assemblywoman Evans), Holly Butler (Senator Migden), and Jazmin Rodriguez (Senator Wiggins). Michael Humphrey, Joann Keyston, Jack Neureuter, Jim McSweeney, and Mary Maddux-Gonzalez represented the Planning and Implementation Committee. Staff present included Cliff Coates, Lynn Scuri, and Liz Gibboney. Cliff referred the group to the meeting notes attached to the package. The legislative staff were very receptive to the request for assistance in advocating for appropriate rates for Managed Medi-Cal in Sonoma County. Staff agreed to discuss writing letters to support Partnership in the request for rate increases.

Mary Maddux-Gonzalez and Jack Horn thanked the group for participating in this meeting and drafting letters of support. Jack emphasized that all correspondence with the State and legislators has an impact.

**Partnership HealthPlan Report**

Mr. Jack Horn reported that representatives of Partnership had a productive meeting with members of the Governor's staff to discuss rate increases. Attendees from the State included Dan Dunmoyer, Kim Belshe, and Stan Rosenstein. Mr. Horn reported that Partnership presented their financial history which demonstrated they were successful and good stewards. Partnership expressed the need for rate increases in order to keep pace with inflation. Officials from the State responded that Partnership had demonstrated need and was reasonable in making the request. The State offered that rates would not be adjusted this year, but the 2008-2009 budget year would provide an increase for Managed Medi-Cal providers. Mr. Horn reported that we should know how much the State would allocate to Managed Medi-Cal providers in total in the May budget revise. We will likely

not know how much of that will be allocated to Partnership HealthPlan until the budget is signed.

There were questions from PIC Committee members regarding Partnership's ability to maintain appropriate reserves. Mr. Horn reported that the State was willing to show flexibility and allow Partnership to drop below published requirements. The State reviewed Partnership's financial plan and had nothing to offer in improvements. The State has requested monthly financial statements to stay apprised of operations.

Mr. Horn stated that should the State budget discussions last into October, Partnership would likely need bridge loans to meet operating cash needs.

Mr. Horn reported that Partnership will meet with the State again on May 15.

There was a question regarding the status of rates for Sonoma County. Mr. Horn responded that Sonoma rates could be accepted if the State applies a cost of living adjustment to the last agreed upon figures.

Committee members asked Mr. Horn if the State was still committed to Managed Medical expansion. Mr. Horn responded that he believes so and will discuss this in future meetings with the State.

In response to several questions regarding start-up in Sonoma County, Mr. Horn stated that he remained optimistic that we would move forward and that an aggressive start date would be March of 2009. In order to move quickly, it is possible to start operations with a limited population (perhaps without people with disabilities) for a period of time.

Mr. Horn reported that Sonoma is first priority in expansion followed by Marin.

Mr. Horn reported that he had received a study on specialty provider capacity in Sonoma County which he would make available to the Committee for review and discussion at a future meeting.

Mr. Horn reported that Partnership had cancelled the contract with Lifemaster, a disease management consulting organization, as the results were not financially acceptable.

There was some disappointment from the public attendees regarding this development.

Mr. Horn addressed this by reinforcing Partnerships commitment to care management programs. The problem was a disconnect with physicians and Lifemaster.

Rita Scardaci reported that she was invited and attended the recent Partnership HealthPlan board retreat and was impressed with the knowledge and understanding of Sonoma County issues. She advised that the Board was supportive and hopeful that Sonoma would join.

Rita thanked Jack for the invitation and opportunity to participate.

### **Sonoma County Activities**

Mary Maddux-Gonzalez briefed the Committee on the activities of the Health Action Group. The group has been meeting for six months and is currently focused on three main areas:

1. Healthy eating
2. Aging
3. Mental Health

Naomi Fuchs briefed the group on the activities of the SHAC Group. There are three main areas this group has selected.

1. Primary Care expansion and Specialty Care
2. Health Information exchange/electronic medical record
3. New models of care (patient centered, primary medical home)

There was some discussion of a possible alignment of Health Action, SHAC and Managed Medi-Cal Planning, particularly in the area of new models of care. It was agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Dan Hull expressed that he was impressed with PHP and the progress of the group but expressed concern over recent participation and progress. He suggested that the group could be used for input on how to improve the current system of care in Sonoma County in the interim.

Mr. Geza Kadar commented that implementing Managed Medi-Cal is critical to moving forward with the new Primary Care Model being discussed in the Health Action group.

### **Next Meeting**

The Committee discussed the following potential agenda items for the next meeting.

- Specialty Care
- Working with SHAC and Health Action
- Report on the May budget revision
- Legislative visits update
- **Adjourned at 10:30 AM**