

**COHS Planning and Implementation Committee  
Meeting Notes  
May 23, 2008**

**In Attendance**

**Implementation Committee Members:** Jack Neureuter, Dianna Ball, Nancy Oswald, Kirk Pappas, Mary Maddux-González, Marion Deeds, Joan Froess, Mary Szecsey, Barbara Graves, Paul Duranczyk, Mary Maddux-Gonzalez, Evan Rayner, Kelly Pfeifer, Sean Gaskie,

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

**Partnership HealthPlan:** Jack Horn, Liz Gibboney

**Audience:** Geza Kadar, Susan Keller

**Absent:** Michael Humphrey, Jim McSweeney, Ann McGee, Diane Kaljian, James Vaughn, Susan Ziblatt, Michael Smith, Naomi Fuchs, Joann Keyston, Don Ransom, Madrone Williams, Damon Doss, Irma Oregon

**Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**

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

**Partnership HealthPlan Report**

Jack Horn reported that the May revise of the state budget included \$105 million in new money for Managed Medi-Cal plans. It is not known how much of this increase is allocated to Partnership HealthPlan. Jack reported that while this increase is good news there is still much concern over the State budget. The 10% cuts to Medi-Cal are still in place and the State still has a projected deficit of \$15 billion.

Partnership HealthPlan representatives are scheduled to meet with Dan Dunmoyer and staff from the Governor's office for a second time to discuss the need for rate increases at Partnership HealthPlan.

There was discussion about timing for implementation in Sonoma. Jack reported that best case would be a spring implementation. Implementation would likely be staged. The purpose would be to begin with the less complicated, lower payment beneficiaries, which creates less demand for resources initially. The tangible net equity requirements will be much less for the less complicated patient.

There was discussion regarding whether the \$105 million in the May revise would provide Partnership with the funds necessary to continue. Jack stated that he believed that there would be sufficient funds allocated to Partnership.

Jack Horn presented a report on access to specialists prepared for Partnership HealthPlan by Barbara Mackenzie. The report was summarized in grid form by DHS staff. The results of the report show that Medi-Cal beneficiaries currently face access problems in approximately 1/3 of the specialty areas. Mr. Horn reported that this report is a first step in putting together an appropriate network of specialists. The Planning Group will be an integral part of this effort. Dr. Pfeifer commented that the report will be helpful and that discussions on the issue of specialty access are underway at RCHC and the SCMA.

There were questions on the regulations regarding specialty care. Mr. Horn reported that

there are State regulations which call for a certain number of specialists based on beneficiaries in a region. There are also provisions for exceptions in special circumstances. Dr. Pappas described the Kaiser model for specialists which is based on enrollment. Dr. Pappas also stated that specialty care must be looked at in a different way to be successful. Specialists rotating into community clinics is a model that works well. The SCMA and RCHC are working on new models for orthopedics and endocrinology.

There was much discussion on the issue of payments to specialists and the need to provide an efficient system of payment and a smooth system of seeing patients. Finding physician champions to participate in the effort will be key. Mr. Horn commented that he was enthusiastic about the possibilities for creative solutions in Sonoma County and thanked the group for the input.

### **Sonoma County Activities**

1. Health Action (HAC). Barbara Graves reported on activities of The Sonoma County Health Action Council. The Council has preliminarily approved a Health Vision for 2020. The vision states that by the year 2020 Sonoma County will be the healthiest county in California. The initial goals of the group are to:
  - Create a culture of active, healthy living in Sonoma County
  - Increase consumption of healthy foods
  - Increase physical activity for all residents
  - Connect all residents with a trusted source of prevention-focused primary care and community resources to support healthy living
  - Expand capacity within the health care delivery system to deliver effective behavior change education and support.
2. Sonoma Health Access Coalition (SHAC). Nancy Oswald reported on the goals and status the SHAC. SHAC is a coalition of local healthcare stakeholders working to improve access to care in Sonoma County, particularly for the uninsured. The goal is to design a county-wide healthcare system that is responsive to the needs of the community. The emphasis of the work to date is on access to primary care and the promotion of the patient centered medical home.

### **Role of the PIC in Sonoma County Activities**

Cliff Coates reported that there was some interest expressed by Committee members to coordinate the activities of the various groups working on improving healthcare in our Community, specifically the SHAC and HAC. There was much discussion about the overlap of the efforts of each of these groups with the Managed Medi-Cal PIC. Several methods of coordinating activities were discussed. It was agreed that the SHAC and HAC group should be included on all PIC agendas for formal reports on activities. Formal linkage and coordination of activities should occur on a case-by-case basis. The first possibility for linkage in this fashion is likely to be specialty care. There was additional discussion about specialty care and the possibility of hiring a regional coordinator for specialty access. Cliff agreed to implement this process in the planning of future PIC meetings.

**Public Comment**

Susan Keller commended Partnership for the work on specialist availability and commented that pain management seemed to be missing from the study.

Geza Kadar questioned whether implementation of managed Medi-Cal would create a pool of money for Sonoma County as a separate entity or one pool for all of the Partnership Counties. Mr. Horn responded that it was one pool for all of Sonoma County. Mr. Horn reminded the group that savings or surpluses are budgeted and paid out to entities that meet performance objectives.

Dr. Maddux-Gonzalez thanked the public attendees for their interest and participation and advised members that issues raised by attendees will be addressed.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PIC is scheduled for June 27 at 9:00 am.