

**COHS Planning and Implementation Committee
Meeting Notes
September 26, 2008**

In Attendance

Implementation Committee Members: Dianna Ball, Nancy Oswald, Marion Deeds, Joan Froess, Michael Humphrey, Paul Duranczyk, Joann Keyston, Naomi Fuchs, Jane Stone (for Mich Riccioni)

Staff and Consultants: Cliff Coates, Lynn Scuri

Partnership HealthPlan: Jack Horn, Liz Gibboney

Audience: Geza Kadar, Susan Keller, Benita McClarin

Absent: Jack Neureuter, Jim McSweeney, Diane Kaljian, James Vaughn, Susan Zibblatt, Michael Smith, Don Ransom, Madrone Williams, Damon Doss, Irma Oregon, Mary Szecsey, Barbara Graves, Mary Maddux-Gonzalez, Evan Rayner, Sean Gaskie, Kirk Pappas,

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Cliff Coates opened the meeting and welcomed the Planning and Implementation Committee and guests and asked that individuals introduce themselves. Cliff announced that Dr. Kelly Pfeifer had to resign from the committee as she had taken the position of Medical Director for the San Francisco Health Plan. Joann Keyston announced that she attended a luncheon to honor Dr. Mary Maddux-Gonzalez and Dr. Kirk Pappas for their work to improve health in Sonoma County.

Partnership HealthPlan Report

Jack Horn reported that the recently signed State budget provided a net 9% increase to Partnership Health Plan. This increase stabilizes Partnership so that expansion into Sonoma is now feasible. Mr. Horn outlined next steps for Sonoma expansion. The Partnership board must approve moving forward and the State must finalize rate for Sonoma County. The Sonoma rate was negotiated last year and deemed acceptable, but now must be increased for inflation. The rate also did not provide any funds for administration. There were questions regarding Partnership's reserves. Mr. Horn reported that reserves declined to \$6 million but will return to \$21 million when all of the funds from the state budget increase are accounted for. The reserve requirement by regulation is currently \$17 million and will increase to approximately \$30 million after expansion into Sonoma County. There were questions regarding whether the number of beneficiaries would decrease with the new eligibility rules and how Partnership would prepare for next year's budget. It was reported that there would be a temporary decrease in membership of two to three thousand members with new rules. Mr. Horn explained that expansion will provide for more of a voice with the State in budget negotiations. Partnership continues to diversify so that there is not 100% reliance on State funds. The Committee asked questions about the timeline and the relationship to other expansion Counties. Mr. Horn responded that Sonoma will be first to be added, followed by Mendocino and Lake Counties. Marin has rate issues and there is no current timeline.

If all were to proceed without delay, Sonoma could be up and running by July of 2009. The next steps for Partnership are to look for office space in Santa Rosa, hire a local Manager, and engage Barbara MacKenzie to begin provider contract discussions. There were questions regarding the role of the PIC now that rates have been approved. Staff responded that meetings will now focus on implementation issues. The action plan will be updated for discussion at the October meeting of the Committee. In response to question about actions taken by the County, staff explained that the County has sent a letter to the State indicating a desire to move forward with Partnership. The County Board of Supervisors will have to take formal action to adopt an ordinance and appoint board members prior to going live.

Sonoma County Activities

Health Action (HAC).

Naomi Fuchs reported that the healthcare delivery task force has been meeting and has agreed on two main priorities:

1. Increase capacity through innovation.
2. Development of patient self-management programs.

Sonoma Health Access Coalition (SHAC).

Nancy Oswald reported that the Executive Director of Los Angeles Community Health will speak at a SHAC sponsored event on October 8. Nancy also reported that the West County Health Center was up and running with the complete electronic medical record program. The Southwest Clinic will be next to implement.

SCMA – Specialty access

Naomi Fuchs reported that the SCMA has identified Orthopedics and Endocrinology as high need and is working with two lead physicians in pilot projects.

Public Comment

Susan Keller reported that she had been assisting Partnership with the roll-out of the POLST implementation at Partnership. The requirements in this law must be implemented by 01/01/09. Susan advised that there is much work to be done in advanced care planning for a successful implementation.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the October meeting will include a review of the issues previously covered and a new action plan and preliminary timeline. The next meeting of the PIC is scheduled for October 24 at 9:00 am.