

**COHS Planning and Implementation Committee  
Meeting Notes  
October 24, 2008**

**In Attendance**

**Implementation Committee Members:** Dianna Ball, Nancy Oswald, Marion Deeds, Joan Froess, Michael Humphrey, Paul Duranczyk, Jane Stone (for Mich Riccioni), Don Ransom, Barbara Graves, Mary Maddux-Gonzalez, Jim Vaughn

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

**Partnership HealthPlan:** Jack Horn

**Audience:** Rita Scardaci, Linda McCall, Barbara Lemus, Willie Anderson, Nancy Moore, Kim Seamans, Maria Tatman

**Absent:** Jack Neureuter, Jim McSweeney, Diane Kaljian, Joann Keyston, Susan Zibblatt, Michael Smith, Madrone Williams, Damon Doss, Irma Oregon, Mary Szecsey, Evan Rayner, Sean Gaskie, Kirk Pappas, Naomi Fuchs

**Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**

Mary Maddux-Gonzalez opened the meeting and welcomed the Planning and Implementation Committee and guests and asked that individuals introduce themselves. Joan Froess asked the Committee members for advice on finding private pediatricians to see foster kids. There was discussion about wait times at the Community Clinics and the lack of a local referral resource. Mr. Horn commented that when Sonoma County expansion is complete the member services department will assist enrollees with locating physicians. The KidsNet program in Sonoma County was discussed as a temporary solution for foster care kids who need immediate care. Cliff agreed to provide contact numbers.

**State of California Report**

Willie Anderson, Barbara Lemus, and Linda McCall from the State of California introduced themselves and provided the Committee with an update on expansion activities. San Luis Obispo County Managed Medi-Cal has been implemented. Placer County is expected to be complete in 2009, and Sonoma is scheduled for July of 2009. Madera and Kings County are establishing a Local Initiative scheduled to be operational by July of 2010. Marin is not moving forward at this time. There were questions about rates and the State's interest in continuing with expansion. Barbara Lemus explained that the State is very interested and committed to expansion and that rates were being completed for Sonoma. Rates must be adjusted for the 10% cuts called for in the budget and an inflation factor. Jack Horn explained that the rates previously negotiated for Sonoma were acceptable but now need a COL adjustment. The State was planning to complete the Sonoma rates by the end of November. Jack Horn explained that he would bring the rates to the Partnership Board meeting on December 3 for approval to move forward with expansion.

**PIC Charter Review**

Cliff Coates provided of an overview of the PIC Charter drafted on February of 2007.

There was a comment on the possibility of moving the meeting to a downtown location. Staff will discuss meeting times and locations for next year.

### **Partnership HealthPlan Report**

Jack Horn reported that Partnership has started the transition crisis/survival mode to planning for expansion now that the State budget and plan rates have been resolved. All departments at Partnership are completing staffing needs for adding Sonoma and the approximate 45,000 members. Partnership has completed a revised budget that includes the new rates provided by the State which will provide for a surplus and bring tangible net equity up to approximately \$40 million, well above the regulatory requirement. There were questions from the Committee about the prospects for completing the Sonoma rate and continuing State support given the budget problems. The questions included whether there was reason to expect future financial stability of PHC Mr. Horn responded that Partnership, and managed care, is a value proposition for the State. Partnership delivers excellent value in terms of both service and cost. As long as this is the case the State will be interested in seeing Partnership succeed. There should be financial challenges expected given the State budget issues, so cost containment will remain a priority. Mr. Horn reported that the new I.T. system upgrade has been implemented. Mr. Horn reported that the system does not provide direct access to members at this time, but may in the future.

### **Action Plan status and priorities**

Mr. Horn distributed and discussed the Sonoma County Expansion Interim Work Plan. The interim plan outlines activities that can be addressed prior to receiving final rates for Sonoma (expected in December). The plan addresses issues in four general areas:

1. Provider Relations/Recruitment
2. Policy Issues
3. Regional Office
4. Regulatory

The status of issues previously discussed by the Committee was reviewed. It was determined that the policy decisions on auto-assignment were nearly complete. Staff work needs to be done to determine geographies and capacity. There was discussion about the requirement to include private physicians in the auto assignment process to satisfy recruiting needs and regulatory issues. Other work that needs to be completed includes risk pool geography, specialist recruitment, Kaiser role.

Mr. Horn reported that the immediate action item will be to look for space and identify staff to work in Sonoma County.

### **Public Comment**

There were comments regarding the benefits of bringing managed care to Sonoma County including higher payments to physicians and low administrative costs. There was a question regarding whether Managed Medi-Cal will assist with improving care in Mental Health. Mr. Horn reported that Managed Care will only indirectly help with this issue by improving preventative care and reducing Emergency Room visits. Mental Health remains outside of the Managed Care arena. There was a question regarding whether care would be more user friendly. Mr. Horn reported that surveys consistently

show high satisfaction with Partnership. Diana Ball from Kaiser reported that Partnership is highly regarded within the Kaiser system for its customer service.

**Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the November meeting will be moved due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The likely date will be December 5. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.