

**COHS Planning and Implementation Committee
Meeting Notes
December 5, 2008**

In Attendance

Implementation Committee Members: Nancy Oswald, Joan Froess, Jane Stone (for Mich Riccioni), Don Ransom, Barbara Graves, Mary Maddux-Gonzalez, Jim Vaughn, Jack Neureuter, Joann Keyston, Michael Smith, Madrone Williams, Damon Doss, Mary Szecsey, Naomi Fuchs

Staff and Consultants: Cliff Coates, Lynn Scuri

Partnership HealthPlan: Jack Horn, Liz Gibboney, Mary Kerlin

State of California (by phone): Linda McCall, Debra Mullins, Louie Sanchez, Javier Portela

Audience: Kim Seamans, Geza Kadar, Susan Keller, Veronica Stone, Dan Hull, Martin Levario

Absent: Jim McSweeney, Diane Kaljian, Susan Zibblatt, Irma Oregon, Evan Rayner, Sean Gaskie, Kirk Pappas, Michael Humphrey, Paul Duranczyk, Dianna Ball, Marion Deeds

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Mary Maddux-Gonzalez opened the meeting and welcomed the Planning and Implementation Committee and guests and asked that individuals introduce themselves. Jack Horn introduced Veronica Stone from the office of Noreen Evans. Ms. Stone thanked the group for their efforts and informed the group that Noreen Evans has been a supporter of Partnership and managed medi-cal over the years.

Sonoma expansion rate status and Partnership update

Jack Horn announced that rates provided by the State of California for expansion into Sonoma County were acceptable. The Partnership Board asked for a detailed budget of Sonoma for the first fiscal year and gave management the green light to proceed. Partnership will proceed immediately with looking for space, staff, and putting together the network of providers in Sonoma County. There were questions as to whether the rates could be cut given the State budget problems. Jack responded that rates were not yet in contract form but were expected to be firm. Representatives from the State replied that only a catastrophic event would cause a reopening, otherwise the rates were good. Jack informed the group that future rate negotiations will continue to be a challenge, but managed care is part of the solution to medi-cal budget issues.

Sonoma expansion workplan/timeline

Liz Gibboney distributed a preliminary workplan for expansion into Sonoma. The plan outlines activities for a planned go live date of September 1. The search for space for the area manager and provider relations staff in Sonoma County is underway. Hiring of most staff will occur in the summer, three months ahead of go live. This will include the area medical director. There was discussion about the Sept. 1 start date. Liz informed the group that nine months is required to have the federal waiver approved by CMS. There

were questions about Sonoma County BOS approval. Liz responded that the Sonoma Board and all other County boards will need to approve an ordinance authorizing the Partnership to operate in Sonoma County. The ordinance will likely go to the Board in late summer. The Board of Supervisors will be apprised of Planning Group activities throughout the year. There were questions about staffing in Sonoma County. Liz responded that there will be an area manager and medical director in Sonoma County. These positions will also work with Lake and Mendocino Counties in the future. There were questions regarding the PIC role and priorities. Liz responded key PIC issues are auto-assignment, risk pool policies, and the role of Kaiser. Negotiating contracts with providers is a Partnership management responsibility. There was a comment regarding the number of task forces that are currently underway in Sonoma County which could result in duplication of efforts. Liz asked that Partnership be provided with the activities that are underway so that Partnership can attend.

Discussion items

1. Risk pool geography

Jack Horn reviewed the various possibilities for accounting and distributing risk pools to providers. In most Counties there are defined geographies of physicians which work with a single hospital. In Sonoma County there are not clear geographic boundaries. After discussion it was agreed that that Sonoma County should be viewed as a single risk pool which will allow for physicians to work with more than one hospital without penalty. There were questions on how contracts would be negotiated with hospitals and how they would be paid. Jack responded that hospitals will be paid the same rate as they are currently paid for inpatient care (per cost reports). Outpatient will be paid at 130% of medical rates. Hospitals are paid on the same methodology, not the same rates for inpatients.

There was more discussion of rates for primary care and the role of risk pools. Jack agreed to convene a primary care meeting to discuss payment methodologies.

2. Community Clinic Capacity

Cliff introduced this agenda item as background for a discussion on the role of Kaiser and the discussion of auto assignment geographies. Naomi, Mary, Jack, and Nancy provided overviews of clinic capacity and other developments. There has been expansion of space and provides in the Southwest Clinics so that capacity has been dramatically improved. The West County Clinic has added a Sebastopol location and has now implemented the electronic medical record. More expansion is coming in September. The Alliance Clinic is moving and expanding the Windsor location.

3. County Ordinance

Liz reviewed a copy of the ordinance passed by Yolo County when managed care and Partnership started operations there. The ordinance spells out responsibilities of the Commission (Partnership), Board membership, Committee structure, and other powers and duties. Sonoma County will need to pass a similar ordinance prior to going live. There will be Committee meeting agenda items to discuss each area in the next several months.

Public Comment

There were no comments from Public attendees. Cliff reported that the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board was meeting on December 17 to hear a recommendation to close enrollment to Healthy Families for up to six months in order to resolve a \$17 million shortfall. This would result in 2,100 children in Sonoma County being denied coverage. Implications will be discussed at future meetings.

Next Meeting

Cliff distributed a schedule of meeting for 2009. The Committee will continue to meeting on the fourth Friday of every month from 9:00 – 11:00 at Aviation Blvd. The next meeting is January 23. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00