

**COHS Planning and Implementation Committee
Meeting Notes
June 26, 2009**

In Attendance:

Implementation Committee Members: Jack Neureuter, Joann Keyston, Barbara Graves, Naomi Fuchs, Don Ransom, Marion Deeds, Jim Vaughn, Nancy Oswald, Mary Maddux-Gonzalez

Staff and Consultants: Rita Scardaci, Cliff Coates, Lynn Scuri

Partnership HealthPlan: Jack Horn, Liz Gibboney, Mary Kerlin, Barbara MacKenzie

Absent: Jim McSweeney, Diane Kaljian, Susan Zibblatt, Irma Oregon, Sean Gaskie, Michael Smith, Mich Riccioni, Joan Froess, Evan Rayner, Kirk Pappas, Mary Szecsey, Jane Stone Michael Humphrey, Dianna Ball, Madrone Williams, Paul Duranczyk, Damon Doss,

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Mary Maddux-Gonzalez welcomed the Planning and Implementation Committee and reviewed the goals of the meeting and the agenda. There were no announcements from the Committee.

Governance

Cliff presented the schedule for board nominations. The schedule calls for candidates to be identified and sent to the Department of Health Services by July 24. Board candidates will be reviewed and forwarded to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in August. Rita reported that the Partnership Board would like to have future board members identified as soon as possible so that they can be invited to attend board meetings in advance of their appointment. Rita reported that she attended the Partnership HealthPlan Board meeting with Mary Maddux-Gonzalez on June 24.

Cliff presented a draft of the County ordinance to establish the Commission for Managed Medi-Cal in Sonoma County along with Solano, Yolo, and Napa Counties. The ordinance will need to be approved by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors prior to program launch. The Committee was asked for comments on the draft ordinance. The following suggestions were made.

- Ordinance should be specific in outlining that each County is provided with 2 board seats plus 1 per 10,000 members. This will allow for Counties to add members as membership grows. Some discussion is required about how to select additional members and how to reduce board size if membership declines.
- Ordinance should specify that vacant seats will be filled for the remainder of term.
- Vacant seats should be filled using the same process as identified for initial board.
- Initial terms should be staggered (2 and 4 year seats).

There was discussion about the location of board meetings and the time commitment required of board members. Rita informed the Committee that the ability to spend the necessary time to prepare and travel to Solano for board meetings was an important criteria for Board nomination. Jack Horn informed the Committee that there is no

compensation for board members, although Medi-Cal members who serve on the board are provided a travel stipend.

Partnership HealthPlan report

Jack Horn reported that the May revise of the State budget currently includes a 3.6% increase in rates for County Organized Health Plans. It is not know how this increase would be applied to each COHS/Partnership. The budget must be still be signed by the Governor before any increase is realized. Partnership has cash reserves to last through September if the State begins issuing IOUs.

Mr. Horn reported that the Kaiser discussions are going well with Kaiser agreeing to take the same number of Medi-Cal members as current.

The top priority at Partnership is implementation in Sonoma County. Meetings with County staff and eligibility workers are underway.

Liz Gibboney distributed a draft packet of materials which included the letter to beneficiaries from the State, a draft letter from Partnership HealthPlan, a draft provider directory. Liz informed the group that the first letters will be sent July 1 and that changes will be made up to the last minute. Liz reminded the group that physicians can reach out to their patients. Partnership requests that correspondence be reviewed prior to distribution.

Mary Kerlin reported that there are now 60 physicians under contract. The first physician meeting was held June 17. Physicians from Solano County were present to discuss their experience working with Partnership HealthPlan. A meeting was also held with Physician practice managers. Partnership staff discussed the process of authorizations, referrals, and billing. The meeting was very helpful in facilitating contracting opportunities. The next meeting is with long-term-care facilities on July 13.

Jack Horn reported that hospital contracting is still moving forward. Meetings with hospitals continue with the key issue being data reconciliation. Mr. Horn reiterated that having Sutter and Memorial in the network is required. The goal continues to be to have all hospitals in the network. There were questions regarding how a hospital would be paid if they do not contract. Mr. Horn responded that elective admission would not be allowed if a hospital does not contract. Non-elective (emergency) hospital care is paid at a state mandated very low rate.

There were questions about members who were eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal. Ms. Gibboney responded that Medicare is primary and these members would not be assigned to a physician and not capitated. Payment for these members will be fee-for-service.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public

Wrap-up and next meeting

Mr. Horn reported that national health reform is moving forward. The public option for insurance being discussed is supported by the COHS coalition in California. It is possible that Partnership would be able to be a provider for the public option.

Cliff reported that the next meeting will include a revised County ordinance with the changes discussed, an update on contracting, and a discussion of the board nomination process

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 24 at 9:00.