

**COHS Planning and Implementation Committee
Meeting Notes
February 23, 2007**

In Attendance

Implementation Committee Members: Dianna Ball, Maralee Evans for Evan Rayner, Kathy Fico for Mich Riccioni, Joan Froess, Naomi Fuchs, Sean Gaskie, Barbara Graves, Michael Humphrey, Diane Kaljian, Mary Maddux-González, Jim McSweeney, Jack Neureuter, Irma Oregon, Nancy Oswald, Kirk Pappas, Kelly Pfeifer, Mary Szecsey, James Vaughn, Madrone Williams, Susan Ziblatt

Staff: Cliff Coates, Alison Lobb, Lynn Scuri

Consultant: Elli Hall

Absent: Damon Doss, Paul Duranczyk, Joann Keyston, Ann McGee, Don Ransom

CDHS Staff: Jeff Kemp

Partnership HealthPlan: Jack Horn

Department of Health Services: Rita Scardaci

Department of Human Services: Marion Deeds, Kim Seamans

Audience: Susan Keller

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Dr. Maddux-González welcomed the group to the first meeting of the County Organized Health System Planning and Implementation Committee. This new name for what was previously the “Managed Medi-Cal Planning Group” reflects the new phase of work and role for the group.

Update

Mr. Coates reported that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted at their 12/12/2006 meeting to accept the report and recommendations from the managed Medi-Cal Planning Group, so the process of transitioning to a County Operated Health System within Partnership HealthPlan’s regional Managed Medi-Cal Program can proceed.

Mr. Kemp reported that the State has calculated new rates, which currently are being reviewed and discussed internally.

Process and Structure of the Committee

Mr. Coates presented the proposed charter for the Committee, which outlines its roles and responsibilities. He also presented the schedule for meetings in 2007.

Dr. Pfeifer suggested the Committee continue to recruit a specialist physician from Memorial Hospital. There was discussion about the involvement of specialists in special community meetings during the implementation process.

Partnership HealthPlan Update and Presentation

Mr. Horn presented slides that had been prepared for the Planning Retreat held earlier in the month. In response to questions, Mr. Horn stated that the Board of Directors of Partnership Health Plan has no term limits. Current challenges to Partnership include the fact that Sutter Solano submitted a letter that the organization’s contract with Partnership

will terminate effective 5/1/2007; however, Mr. Horn said negotiations with Sutter Solano are underway, and he is confident that the contract will be continued. Mr. Horn's presentation will be distributed to Implementation & Planning Committee members electronically. Ms. Scardaci will also report on the Planning Retreat at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Horn discussed briefly the implications of the State Budget and of the current Healthcare Reform Proposals on County Organized Health Systems. While the State adjusts its budget to reflect rate pass throughs such as LTC the timing and calculations used in the adjustments are an issue. In addition to presenting some of the basic aspects of the Governor's Healthcare Reform Proposal, Mr. Horn pointed out that the proposed funding (approximately \$12 billion) is very complex, and likely will require a good deal of time to finalize. He also stated that Partnership would prefer the "bright line" of income eligibility for Medi-Cal for children to be set at 133% of the Federal Poverty Level, as opposed to the proposed 100% FPL.

As for more detailed planning of the implementation of the COHS Managed Medi-Cal, Mr. Horn said details cannot be dealt with until Partnership has received the rates from the State. Partnership is pro-actively pursuing appropriate rates in established and expansion Counties. In addition to written requests, PHC regularly meets with key political figures and agencies. In response to a question regarding the problem of access to specialists in Sonoma County through Medi-Cal, Mr. Horn said that Partnership expects to increase the specialist pool. Because Partnership reimbursed at 90% of the Medicare Solano rate, which is significantly higher than the current fee-for-service Medi-Cal Sonoma reimbursement rate, Mr. Horn believes more specialists can be contracted. Partnership will directly contact specialists in Sonoma County, starting with current providers and eventually meeting with all doctors practicing here.

Mr. Horn was asked if Partnership would pursue becoming a Healthy Families insurance provider in Sonoma County (as it has done/is pursuing in other counties). He answered that Partnership would be agreeable to that, but that the application to become a Healthy Families provider would have to be submitted by October 2007 for a starting date in July 2008. It was agreed that the issue of Partnership applying to become a Healthy Families insurance provider in Sonoma County should be an item on the agenda of the next Committee meeting. Mr. Horn reported that Partnership was well underway with the marketing of the Medicare product in Solano County. The group requested that this be explored as an option in Sonoma County.

County Process for Sutter-Memorial Transaction

Dr. Maddux-González outlined how the process of the proposed Sutter-Memorial transaction is to be evaluated by the County. Sutter seeks to close its inpatient operations by the end of 2007. Clear plans and commitments to continue services in other facilities must be provided. Also, the transaction must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The question was asked whether the Attorney General's process to evaluate the proposed transaction is independent of the one being performed by the County for the Board of Supervisors. The processes are separate. The Attorney General's Office investigation is

required by statute, and takes up such issues as market competition and anti-trust. Also, once initiated, it must proceed and be completed on a specific timeframe. However, it is expected that the A.G.'s office will draw on the information provided by the County's process, and will interview key informants identified by the County's roundtables.

Public Comment

Dr. Maddux-González asked for any comments from the public. There was none.

Wrap-Up

Mr. Humphrey requested that the issue of Partnership applying to become a Healthy Families provider be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Fico suggested that the Healthy Families discussion also take up the topic of dental plans, as some of them limit access while others expand it. Mr. Horn proposed it would be advisable to include a discussion of all the possible insurance products at the next meeting. Another item to be placed on the agenda is a report from Rita Scardaci on the Partnership HealthPlan Planning Retreat.

Adjourned at 11:00 AM

The next meeting of the Managed Medi-Cal Planning Group is Friday March 23, 2006 from 9:00am to 11:00am at 475 Aviation Blvd., DHS Conference Center.