

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

**In Attendance**

**Implementation Committee Members:** Dianna Ball, Damon Doss, Paul Duranczyk, Sean Gaskie, Barbara Graves, Michael Humphrey, Joann Keyston, Mary Maddux-González, Jack Neureuter, Kirk Pappas, Kelly Pfeifer, Don Ransom, Evan Rayner, Mich Riccioni, Mary Szecsey, James Vaughn, Madrone Williams

**Staff:** Cliff Coates, Alison Lobb

**Consultant:** Elli Hall

**Absent:** Joan Froess, Naomi Fuchs, Diane Kaljian, Ann McGee, Jim McSweeney, Irma Oregon, Nancy Oswald, Susan Ziblatt

**CDHS Staff:** Jeff Kemp

**Partnership HealthPlan:** Liz Gibboney, Jack Horn

**Department of Human Services:** Kim Seamans

**Audience:** Maddy Hirshfield, Susan Keller, Marc Manari, Debra Mullins

**Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**

Dr. Mary Maddux-González opened the meeting and welcomed the Planning and Implementation Committee and guests and asked that individuals introduce themselves. Dr. Maddux-González then presented the agenda for the meeting. The agenda is tailored to allow time for a presentation by Partnership HealthPlan on managed care. Dr. Maddux-González announced that there will be a stakeholder meeting on the proposed Sutter closing to be held on April 17 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Public Health Conference Room, 475 Aviation Drive. Also, she and Elli Hall will make a report to the Board of Supervisors on April 17 at 5:30. The presentation will be held in the Chamber of the Board of Supervisors and will be open to the public.

**Update**

Mr. Jeff Kemp reported that the State rates had been released to Partnership HealthPlan, and that there is some disagreement between parties on the rates for all four expansion counties. Although the variance on the rates is “material” according to Mr. Kemp, he believes the parties will be able to come to agreement, and representatives of the State will be meeting at the Partnership office in mid-April in order to negotiate and clear up any misunderstandings.

The question was raised regarding how rates are set. Mr. Kemp and Mr. Jack Horn said that historical information is used to come up with weighted averages accounting for age, gender, and aid code. Then actuarial techniques are used to trend the data into the future. If actual experience reveals changes in the population structure by age, gender, or aid code, then the rates are adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Horn suggested that the COHS Planning and Implementation Committee might want to form a legislative sub-group (as has been done in Marin County) in order to educate legislators on the need to quickly resolve rate issues.

*Damon Doss, Liz Gibboney, Barbara Graves, Michael Humphrey, Jack Neurueter, and Mary Szcsey volunteered to participate in a legislative sub-committee. Cliff Coates will schedule a meeting and prepare the agenda with Liz Gibbonney.*

### **Healthy Families and Medicare Products in Sonoma County**

Partnership HealthPlan must apply in fall of 2007 to become a Healthy Families insurance provider effective summer of 2008. Partnership currently has approximately 1,100 Healthy Families enrollees in the Counties of Napa, Solano, and Yolo. Partnership would not expect to receive a large number of Healthy Families enrollees in Sonoma County, but becoming a provider of this program here would be good preparation for the eventuality that the State mandates coverage for all children.

There was discussion as to what advantages Partnership offers, considering we already have Healthy Families providers in Sonoma County. The advantages include “seamless” coverage for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families medical services providers, making billing easier; an easier system for families that have some children covered by each program; and a local resource for member and provider services.

The Planning and Implementation Committee members present agreed to ask Partnership to pursue becoming a Healthy Families insurance provider. It was reported that Healthy Kids Sonoma County, too, is supportive of Partnership proceeding, and that this is a decision that does not require Board of Supervisors approval.

Mr. Horn discussed the timing and potential of offering a Medicare product in Sonoma County. Partnership is not prepared to move ahead on a Medicare product until there is agreement with the State on rates. Many Committee members were opposed to requesting Partnership proceed in this area until their organizations have had a chance to investigate the pros and cons, and what the payments and risks would be. Mr. Horn agreed that this should be discussed at a later date.

Application to provide a Medicare product must be made in January of any given year to take effect the following January.

*Time will be allocated at a future Committee meeting to discuss the question of Partnership offering a Medicare product in Sonoma County.*

### **Managed Medi-Cal Action Plan**

Ms. Liz Gibboney presented a general work plan and timeline for implementing Managed Care Medi-Cal in Sonoma County. The work plan will start being implemented once the State rates are approved, with the “go live” date following about 12 months later. A copy of the generic work plan was distributed.

Ms. Gibboney stated that more activities will be added, as needed, to deal with any situations unique to Sonoma County.

In response to a question, Ms. Gibboney said that work on securing a local office and staffing will begin when there is agreement on rates with the State.

The question was raised as to how the Planning and Implementation Committee can start becoming involved in the work ahead. Ms. Gibboney stated that key areas for discussion and input include governance, community outreach, and auto-assignment of members. Mr. Horn explained that, when members do not make use of their ability to choose providers, mechanisms for assigning members to physicians and hospitals are needed. Mr. Horn suggested that the Committee might want to form sub-committees to take up some of the more complex tasks and issues. The Committee members agreed to consider this as planning proceeds

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Wrap-Up**

It was agreed that the following topics would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee: the State rates (including contingencies in the case of an impasse), the Medicare product, Healthy Families, the staff work plan, and a report from the newly-formed Legislative/Advocacy Sub-Committee.

### **Adjourned at 10:20 AM**

The meeting was followed by a presentation on managed care by Liz Gibboney of Partnership HealthPlan.

**The next meeting of the COHS Planning and Implementation Committee is Friday, April 27, 2007 from 9:00am to 11:00am at 475 Aviation Blvd., DHS Conference Center.**