

COHS Planning and Implementation Committee
Meeting Notes
July 27, 2007

In Attendance

Implementation Committee Members: Dianna Ball, Paul Duranczyk, Kathy Ficco (for Mich Riccioni), Joan Froess, Naomi Fuchs, Barbara Graves, Michael Humphrey, Diane Kaljian, Joann Keyston, Mary Maddux-González, Jim McSweeney, Jack Neureuter, Nancy Oswald, Evan Rayner, Michael Smith, James Vaughn, Marion Deeds

Staff and Consultants: Cliff Coates, Alison Lobb, Lynn Scuri, Elli Hall

Absent: Damon Doss, Sean Gaskie, Ann McGee, Irma Oregon, Kirk Pappas, Don Ransom, Mary Szecsey, Madrone Williams, Susan Zibblatt

CDHCS Staff: Willie Anderson

Partnership HealthPlan: Liz Gibboney, Jack Horn

Audience: Susan Keller

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. Ms. Lynn Scuri announced that there has been a CMSP rate increase to 110% of Medi-Cal rates. Mr. Cliff Coates reminded the group of the meeting schedule for the rest of the year, which is the fourth Friday of each month, although no meetings have been scheduled for November or December. Mr. Coates suggested the group could agree to meet in early December, as last year.

Update on County Expansion Rates Status

Mr. Jack Horn reported that agreement between the State and Partnership HealthPlan has not yet been reached, but looks very promising. Partnership has been analyzing historical fee-for-service costs for the County of Sonoma to estimate potential Partnership liability. The proposed rates currently are in the process of being evaluated by the State's actuarial firm.

The question was posed as to whether Partnership's figures have included settlements with hospitals in addition to FFS rates, and Mr. Horn said he believes so, and would confirm.

Concerns were raised about capacity constraints for Primary Care in Sonoma County, and whether they would allow for the anticipated reduction of ER utilization. Mr. Horn was confident they would, based on Partnership's experience in other counties. A main strategy employed by Partnership is to actively enlist larger provider panels, which is possible with the improved reimbursement rates. It was proposed to use the opportunity provided by implementation planning to identify gaps in PC capacity so as to devise strategies to fill them. Mr. Horn reminded the group that the State requires Partnership to fulfill certain standards in order to retain its contract, and one of the requirements is that Partnership demonstrate adequate capacity.

Mr. Horn responded to a question on capacity and utilization that approximately 30% of enrollees in Managed Care Medi-Cal have no contact with healthcare providers in any given year.

Mr. Horn also reported that the Sonoma Development Hospital would be covered by Partnership on a FFS basis for services performed outside the institution – capitation would not apply to these clients, nor will the State bill for services provided directly by the Sonoma Development Hospital.

Implementation Tasks and Timeline

Ms. Liz Gibboney presented an abbreviated work plan of the main implementation tasks to be achieved prior to “go live”. (See attached work plan.) Areas that she pointed out would benefit from collaboration with the Planning & Implementation Group are:

- Hold large orientation/education session with health councils/task forces, community based organizations, providers, and others
- Determine risk areas/PCP assignment areas
- Determine policy on out-of-county PCPs
- Public relations campaign.

To the above list, members of the PIC added the following as areas in which they would like to be involved:

- Determine Kaiser’s role/participation
- Specialist recruitment
- Primary care capacity survey
- Auto-assignment process
- Opening of the regional office.

There was discussion about the healthcare environment and the many activities underway in Sonoma County which make this a unique market. PIC members expressed that PHC should continue to meet with members of the healthcare community and look for collaborative opportunities. There was discussion about the need to spend focused time in a number of key areas (specialist recruitment, primary care capacity, budget, regional office, etc.) and a suggestion that sub-groups may be necessary. County and PHC staff agreed to discuss this further.

Ms. Gibboney said she would provide a schedule of the upcoming Advisory Committee meetings, at which any Sonoma County PIC members would be welcome. Alternative forms of attendance, including video conferencing, were discussed.

Mr. Jack Horn pointed out that many one-on-one meetings with various Sonoma County players are essential over the next 60 days, and requested PIC group assistance in identifying key individuals. He also emphasized that Partnership’s approach in working with Counties/healthcare communities is to avoid changing patterns of practice.

Other issues addressed include:

- The regional office, envisioned in Santa Rosa, most likely will have a Medical Director, utilization management nurses, provider relations staff, and an office manager. Areas such as claims processing, finance, and member services will be retained centrally as they require centralization for best service and efficiency.
- Kaiser's participation varies by county and will be subject to discussion.
- Partnership usually does not use capitation for hospitals, but rather FFS based on service mix and degree of risk carried.
- Partnership has already agreed to a local governance body in the form an advisory board that would be in place at "go live", be active for at least one year, and continue in place as long as needed.
- The primary care capacity survey should be framed in such a way that it does not merely identify gaps and constraints, but also uncover possible solutions.

Partnership HealthPlan Operations Update

Mr. Jack Horn reported that in the coming week, Partnership would be holding a retreat to address infrastructure readiness for the expansion into Sonoma County, the upgrading of the IT system to be carried out through the end of the year, support processes, and other operational issues tied to the expansion.

Mr. Horn requested that the PIC group recommend personnel for the staffing of the regional office.

Sonoma County – Update on Healthcare Developments

Dr. Mary Maddux-González reported that the County process for assessment of the Sutter closure plans are in the meet and confer stage, which is expected to continue for some time. The first assessment of impact did not take EMS into consideration. The County will continue to analyze plans forwarded by Sutter.

Dr. Maddux-González also informed the PIC group about the newly-formed Health Improvement Action Council (HIAC). Ms. Barbara Graves announced that an event will be held on August 14 to educate community leaders as to how population health can be utilized in our County.

Public Comment

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

Wrap-Up

Mr. Willie Anderson of the California Department of Health Care Services emphasized that the State very much supports the Sonoma County/Partnership HealthPlan process. Either he or one of his staff members, Debra Mullens, will attend PIC group meetings in the future.

Adjourned at 11:05 AM

The next meeting of the COHS Planning and Implementation Committee is Friday, August 24, 2007 from 9:00am to 11:00am at 475 Aviation Blvd., DHS Conference Center.