

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Children's Health Consultant Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2023

1055 W. Seventh Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017



**L.A. Care**  
HEALTH PLAN

#### Members

Tara Ficek, MPH, Chair	Gwendolyn Ross Jordan
Felix Aguilar-Henriquez	Lynda Knox, PhD
Sameer Amin, MD	Nayat Mutafyan*
Edward Bloch, MD*	Hilda Perez
Maria Chandler, MD, MBA	Maryjane Puffer, BSN, MPH*
James Cruz, MD*	Diana Ramos, MD*
Rebecca Dudovitz, MD, MS	Ilan Shapiro, MD, FAAP*
Rosina Franco, MD*	Diane Tanaka, MD*
Toni Frederick, PhD	

#### Management

Alex Li, MD, Chief Health Equity Officer

\*Absent \*\*Present, but not quorum

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Tara Ficek, MPH, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. without a quorum.	
<b>APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA</b>	<i>(The agenda and the meeting minutes were approved simultaneously)</i> The Agenda for today's meeting was approved as submitted.	Approved Unanimously. 9 AYES (Aguilar-Hernandez, Amin, Chandler, Dudovitz, Ficek, Frederick, Jordan, Knox, Perez)
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	No public comment was submitted.	
<b>APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES</b>	<i>(The agenda and the meeting minutes were approved simultaneously)</i> The September 15, 2023 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.	Approved Unanimously. 9 AYES

**APPROVED**

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<b>CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</b>	<p>Chairperson Ficek gave the following report:            Chairperson Ficek expressed appreciation for everyone's flexibility in adjusting the meeting schedule. Reflecting on the importance of community-based organizations (CBOs), Chairperson Ficek acknowledged their critical role in addressing the health and social service needs of children and families across L.A. County. She emphasized the significance of partnerships with CBOs and encouraged thoughtful consideration of how to structure, fund, and contract such collaborations. Chairperson Ficek called for harnessing the collective wisdom of community partners to work towards a more equitable and accessible health and social care system for all children and families in the county.</p>	
<b>CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT</b>	<p><i>(Member Jordan joined the meeting. The committee reached quorum at 8:45 A.M.)</i></p> <p>Sameer Amin, MD, Chief Medical Officer, gave a Chief Medical Officer update.</p> <p>Dr. Amin covered key areas such as timeliness metrics in utilization management, California Children's Services (CCS), and the new pediatric subacute carve-out. The utilization management department demonstrated remarkable progress with significant investments leading to improved performance. Dr. Amin highlighted the success in achieving high scores on internal scorecards for turnaround times. Transitioning to CCS, efforts were made to enhance identification of members under 21, improve communication with provider groups, and streamline processes for pediatric authorizations. The CCS work group and collaboration with L.A. County CCS office were emphasized as crucial initiatives. Lastly, preparations for the pediatric subacute carve-out, slated for 2024, were underway, including system readiness, provider network engagement, and training updates. Dr. Amin expressed readiness to address questions and referred to the detailed CMO report for additional insights into the Division of Health Services.</p> <p>Chairperson Ficek noted that people such as herself that are outside of the health care world are eager to see the template form and noted that there are multiple community organization partners that need to be developed. Member Amin responded by expressing his belief that CCS Child Welfare is part of the first group, and he emphasized the importance of gaining insights into the ongoing development. He highlighted the internal coordination efforts to ensure seamless collaboration among case management, utilization management, provider network departments, and contracting teams. Dr. Amin underscored the need for alignment with the incoming referrals to ensure they are directed appropriately. Regarding the evolving landscape, he mentioned that the focus currently is on digesting the</p>	

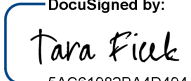
AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	new information and determining collaborative strategies with the community to enhance care for the affected members. As of now, no significant concerns or findings were noted, and the team is actively reviewing and assessing the situation.	
<b>L.A. COUNTY CHILDREN HEALTH DISPARITIES ROUNDTABLE UPDATE</b>	<p>Chairperson Ficek and Dr. Li gave a L.A. County Children Health Disparities Roundtable Update <i>(a copy of the presentation can be obtained from Board Services)</i>.</p> <p>Overview of Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building Resilience in Schools: Address safety concerns related to firearms, anxiety created by gun violence, pandemics, etc.</li> <li>● Addressing Post-Pandemic Vaccine Misinformation and Vaccine Catch Up</li> <li>● Child Welfare Gaps: Explore greater clinical coordination between primary care providers, behavioral health specialist, Department of Children and Family Services and optimize CalAIM youth and foster care resources</li> <li>● Rethinking the Pediatric Medical Home and Transition to Adult Systems of Care</li> <li>● Addressing children/youth health and social service needs together.</li> <li>● Bringing together key stakeholders together.</li> <li>● Re-affirming Medi-Cal and addressing children and youths with special needs.</li> </ul> <p>Moderators: Smita Malhotra (LAUSD), Karen Rogers (CHLA-USC) Participants: Steven Zipperman (Sheriff), Ailleth Tom (DMH), LaKisha Johnson (LAUSD), Maria Chua (LAUSD), Elena Jimenez (LAUSD), Jeff Birnbaum (USC-CHLA), Anya Griffin (CHLA-USC), Michael Brodsky (L.A. Care), Natasha Gill (CHLA-USC), Nancy Kalev (HealthNet)</p> <p>Where are we now?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Period of grief, trauma and burnout- e.g. coming out of pandemic, lots of caregiver stress, not knowing what is going to happen in the future. in the world post-pandemic; issue being processing grief</li> <li>● Time of regression: rising behavioral health issues and students falling behind academically and decline of social skills</li> <li>● Rising crisis; Pre (kids feeling hopeless; other social determinants like housing and food insecurity) and in crisis students e.g. ER's getting overwhelmed with suicide attempts; Learning how to work in a system and in a post-pandemic environment.</li> <li>● Lack of support e..g for parent and children/ and youth with neurodevelopmental issues;</li> </ul>	

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Systems are not sufficient to meeting the needs of what folks are seeing in communities and on the ground.</li> </ul> <p>Where Do We Go?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing capacity of primary care, day care and schools’ mental health training .</li> <li>Adding pediatricians and other clinical staff (e.g. social worker) in schools?</li> <li>Looking beyond the primary care and pediatrician but other staff like social workers for referrals.</li> <li>Expanding and deepening current partnerships already in place e.g. DMH and school..</li> <li>For clinical social workers that exist in schools and can they be reimbursed?</li> <li>Is there a way to pay schools coming? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Untapped (health plans):. ACES; paying for social work services</li> <li>Re-purposing pandemic relief funds</li> <li>Advocate for more State’s school based funds</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>How Do We Get There?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that school staff are providing care to students are getting the training and resources needed e.g. behavioral health assessments.</li> <li>Getting parents involved early on (e.g.dyadic care a new Medi-Cal benefit) and in workgroups.</li> <li>Involve other school districts and leverage existing workgroups and also continue the important conversations with the same groups.</li> <li>Looking at other models (outside of CA) how the other states provides training i.e. Project ECHO model.</li> <li>Having a school –based clinic model in each school.</li> <li>Engage at the level of the state for funding and reimbursement.</li> <li>Leveraging advocacy coalitions to make change</li> </ul>	
<b>DHCS EQUITY PRACTICE TRANSFORMATION GRANT UPDATE</b>	<p>Cathy Mechsner, <i>Manager, Practice Transformation Programs, Quality Improvement</i>, gave a Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Equity Practice Transformation Grant Update (<i>a copy of the full presentation can be obtained from Board Services</i>).</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Equity and Practice Transformation Payment Program:</li> </ul>	

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5-year, \$700 million Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS) Initiative</li> <li>- Aligns with the following DHCS Programs and Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Quality Strategy</li> <li>• Equity Roadmap</li> <li>• 50 by 2025 Bold Goals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assist lower functioning practices to improve their capacity to deliver better care to Medi-Cal patients through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investments in technology, infrastructure, staffing, practice support/technical assistance, and learning collaborative</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DHCS flows Directed Payments through managed care plans (MCPs) to practices</li> <li>- Duration: January 1, 2024 – 2028</li> <li>- DHCS to submit list of practices to CMS by December 11, 2023 for Cohort 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>CLINICAL INITIATIVES: CHILDREN’S PHONE- BASED INTERVENTIONS</b>	This agenda item was not discussed due to time.	
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.	

Respectfully submitted by:  
Victor Rodriguez, *Board Specialist II, Board Services*  
Malou Balones, *Board Specialist III, Board Services*  
Linda Merkens, *Senior Manager, Board Services*

APPROVED BY:  
Tara Ficek, *MPH, Chairperson*

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Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_