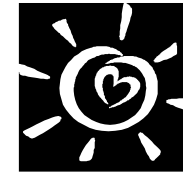


# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Children’s Health Consultant Advisory Committee

### Meeting Summary – August 20, 2024

1055 W. Seventh Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017



**L.A. Care**  
HEALTH PLAN

**Members**

Tara Ficek, MPH, Chair	Lynda Knox, PhD
Sameer Amin, MD	Hilda Perez
Edward Bloch, MD*	Maryjane Puffer, BSN, MPH*
Maria Chandler, MD, MBA*	Diana Ramos, MD*
Rebecca Dudovitz, MD, MS	Ilan Shapiro, MD, FAAP*
Rosina Franco, MD	
Toni Frederick, PhD*	
Gwendolyn Ross Jordan	

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

**Management**

Alex Li, MD, Chief Health Equity Officer  
 Cherie Compartore, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Government Affairs  
 Laura Gunn, Quality Improvement Project Manager II, Quality Improvement  
 Tamara Ataiwi, Quality Management Nurse Specialist RN II, Quality Improvement  
 Caroline Margaret Basil, Quality Improvement Project Manager II, Quality Improvement

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Tara Ficek, MPH, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. <b>without quorum</b>	
<b>APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA</b>	The Agenda for today’s meeting was approved as submitted.	<b>Approved Unanimously. 7 AYES (Amin, Dudovitz, Ficek, Franco, Jordan, Knox, Perez)</b>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<i>No public comment was submitted.</i>	
<b>APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES</b>	The March 26, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.	<b>Approved Unanimously. 7 AYES</b>
<b>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</b>	Chairperson Ficek gave the following report	

**APPROVED**

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	<p>Chair Ficek expressed her enthusiasm for resuming meetings after the summer break, hoping everyone had an enjoyable and COVID-19-free summer. She acknowledged the back-to-school season, noting the significant policy changes in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), particularly the implementation of a student cell phone ban aimed at improving mental health. Chair Ficek pointed out the importance of this shift and expressed interest in tracking its impact on children's mental health. She encouraged the committee to prioritize mental health in their agenda, highlighting her organization, First 5 LA's, focus on maternal mental health in their new strategic plan. She stressed the significance of mental health for both parents and children, particularly its long-term effects on health, learning, and family well-being. She invited committee members to share their insights, progress, and challenges related to children's and youth mental health, citing previous presentations on the DHCS Children's Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. Chair Ficek called for the committee's support in spotlighting mental health over the coming year, emphasizing the need to address remaining gaps and ensure the issue receives the attention it deserves.</p>	
<p><b>CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT</b></p>	<p>Sameer Amin, <i>MD, Chief Medical Officer</i>, gave a Chief Medical Officer update.</p> <p>Dr. Amin provided an update on increasing access to mental health treatment in Los Angeles County schools, emphasizing the importance of addressing the mental health needs of adolescents. He noted that California ranks low in Medicaid spending per child and highlighted the concerning statistic that approximately 64% of adolescents needing depression treatment are not receiving it, particularly affecting teenage girls. He explained the establishment of the Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SB HIP) in August 2021, aimed at enhancing mental health services in schools. A survey revealed that only 46% of the responding school districts had fully operational mental health services, underscoring the need for improvement. Dr. Amin described the implementation of a school telehealth process that facilitates referral, evaluation, treatment, and linkage to community resources, with the assistance of Hazel Health. He shared positive results from the program, noting that over 2,800 students were assessed, leading to significant counseling sessions, predominantly initiated by school staff. He spoke about the improvements in school attendance among students referred to the program, indicating that students were feeling well enough to attend school regularly. Dr. Amin spoke about plans for 2024 and 2025, including expanding the therapist network, expediting the consent process, and enhancing long-term treatment pathways to ensure continuous support for those needing ongoing care. He expressed excitement for the work being done and offered to have Michael Brodsky, <i>MD, Senior Medical Director, Community Health, Behavioral Health</i>, give an update on this.</p>	

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	<p>Member Dudovitz inquired about the racial and ethnic breakdown of the users of the mental health services, specifically how it compares to the overall school population across the various districts involved in the program. She noted that in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), students of color might be underrepresented in the user sample and sought clarification on how the data aligned with the broader demographic trends in the schools from which the data was collected. She also asked Dr. Amin to elaborate on the challenges related to streamlining the consent process. Dudovitz was interested in understanding the number of students who expressed interest in the services or were referred but ultimately did not connect with the program. This inquiry aimed to identify potential barriers that may prevent students from accessing the mental health support they need.</p> <p>Member Amin addressed the racial and ethnic breakdown of students receiving mental health care. He reported that approximately 55% of those referred for care identify as Latinx, while around 7.5% are African American. Member Amin noted that this distribution aligns well with the student populations in the schools served, although he acknowledged that African American youth might still be underrepresented given the significant mental health needs in that demographic. He spoke about L.A. Care’s commitment to increasing referrals for this group, especially in light of rising suicide rates among young African American women. Regarding the challenges of streamlining the consent process, Dr. Amin emphasized the importance of establishing a sustainable program beyond the initial incentive funding. He highlighted the need to transition to a fee schedule that allows schools to bill Medi-Cal effectively. He pointed out that many school districts are not currently set up for this billing process, creating a gap that needs to be addressed. To overcome this challenge, the state plans to employ a third-party administrator to facilitate billing and ensure funds are appropriately allocated back to the schools. Amin acknowledged that this process might be complicated and initially challenging, but he expressed confidence in successfully navigating these obstacles.</p>	
<b>MEMBERSHIP (CHC 100)</b>	<p>Sameer Amin, MD, <i>Chief Medical Officer</i>, presented the following motion for approval.</p> <p><b><u>Motion CHC 100.0924</u></b>  <b>To appoint Lina Shah, MD, Medical Director, Medical Management, Utilization Management, as member of the Children’s Health Consultant Advisory Committee (CHCAC), for the Medical Director for Quality Management of L.A. Care Health Plan seat.</b></p>	<p><b>Approved Unanimously. 7 AYES</b></p>

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<p><b>PROPOSED COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND OTHER HOUSEKEEPING ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p>Chairperson Ficek and Alex Li, MD, <i>Chief Health Equity Officer</i>, gave the following presentation about the Proposed Committee Purpose and Other Housekeeping Activities (<i>a copy of the presentation can be obtained from Board Services</i>).</p> <p>Dr. Li began by speaking about the importance of revisiting the committee's mission and purpose, particularly in relation to how L.A. Care can impact children's healthcare for 2024 and beyond. He noted that the discussion was initiated by Chair Ficek, who invited feedback from committee members. Dr. Li stated that the core mission of the Children Health Consultant Advisory Committee (CHCAC) is to ensure that young children and teenagers in the community have access to necessary healthcare. He discussed the need for collaboration among managed care plans and community stakeholders to improve healthcare delivery. He stressed the significance of creating strong relationships between the healthcare system, public health entities, and social services that support children and youth. Dr. Li addressed the importance of committee diversity, stating that it should reflect the varied communities served. He affirmed that the committee's recommendations should advocate for children and youth at board meetings, especially as L.A. Care refreshes its vision and strategy for the next three years. Dr. Li reminded the committee to incorporate themes of health equity and quality into their discussions, he said that serving vulnerable communities requires a comprehensive approach. He invited feedback on the clarified purpose of the committee and encouraged a collaborative effort in making impactful decisions for the benefit of children and youth.</p> <p>Chair Ficek spoke about the importance of aligning the committee's activities with the needs and services available for children and youth across Los Angeles County. She said that the committee could better reflect these needs and provide valuable insights to L.A. Care. Chair Ficek noted the challenge of creating relationships among various entities and organizations within a virtual meeting environment. She said that the need for more engaging meetings that promote relationship-building among members and other stakeholders involved in the welfare of children and youth. She also mentioned the current membership roster, indicating a desire to ensure it represents the diverse demographics of L.A. County. Chair Ficek invited feedback on potential gaps in membership and encouraged committee members to nominate individuals who could add value to the committee. Regarding the structure of future meetings, Chair Ficek proposed maintaining bi-monthly meetings but also suggested an annual in-person meeting. This would provide an opportunity for agenda planning and facilitate relationship-building among members. She proposed holding committee retreat, noted the benefits of face-to-face engagement. She indicated that there would be an action</p>	

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	<p>item on the agenda to review and approve an updated committee charter, which would incorporate the ideas and suggestions discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>Member Knox proposed the idea of involving young people as guest speakers during committee meetings, particularly to provide firsthand insights about their experiences. She suggested this could be done every other session or at the proposed annual retreat, potentially featuring young individuals and pregnant mothers to facilitate meaningful discussions about their needs. She stated that she can assist with organizing the youth participation if there was capacity for it. She recommended starting with scheduling a young guest speaker, allowing the committee to prepare questions in advance to guide the conversation. This approach could create a more structured yet open dialogue, lasting about 15 to 20 minutes, where young speakers could share their perspectives on issues like access to school-based clinics or other relevant topics. She noted the limitations imposed by the Brown Act but believed that even with these constraints, engaging with young voices could provide feedback for the committee. Member Knox stated that she is open for a retreat, meeting face-to-face.</p> <p>Chair Ficek responded that she would be happy to bring in members that are within their population.</p> <p>Member Franco stated that she is the Senior Physician for Student Medical Services at LAUSD, outlined her role in managing 13 school-based clinics within the district, previously classified as CHDP clinics. She noted that with the sunset of the CHDP program, her staff no longer receives the guidance and training previously provided by public health nurses from the county. Member Franco mentioned her discussions with Felix Aguilar-Henriquez, MD, Medical Director, <i>Quality, Quality Improvement</i>, and noted his helpfulness in addressing these concerns. She inquired whether L.A. Care could take on the responsibility of conducting facility site reviews, as the county public health nurses would no longer perform these audits. She requested support from L.A. Care in providing educational resources and training for her staff. Member Franco specifically mentioned the need for training in areas such as immunizations, Body Mass Index readings, and audiology to ensure that medical assistants and providers are equipped to continue delivering quality care to students.</p> <p>Member Amin responded that he can ask Dr. Aguilar and Edward Sheen, MD, Senior Quality, Population Health and Informatics Executive, speak a little bit to that. Yep. Okay, that'd be great.</p> <p>Dr. Li stated that this could be part of future agenda items.</p>	


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	<p>Member Perez thanked Member Knox for her suggestion to include the voices of patients and consumers in discussions. She suggested that the committee could enhance this approach by conducting focus groups tailored to specific populations, such as pregnant women or children in foster care. These focus groups would gather insights on how these groups prefer to receive information and access healthcare services. Member Perez noted the constraints of short meetings and busy schedules but emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for direct feedback from these communities. She also supported the idea of an annual retreat, viewing it as a valuable opportunity for strategic planning and fostering deeper discussions about incorporating these insights into the committee's work.</p> <p>Chair Ficek stated that she can work with Victor Rodriguez, <i>Board Services</i>, to figure out a demographic and figure out a way to engage members. Member Perez stated that they can connect with the Community Resource Centers so they know what services are offered. She noted that they do not have medical appointments but do offer education and classes. They have a diversity of all different classes, workshops, educational facilitation of health topics, and also there's case management from the community health workers at LA care. They do follow ups with patients.</p>	
<p><b>DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE COMMITTEE CHARTER (CHC 101)</b></p>	<p>Alex Li, MD, <i>Chief Health Equity Officer</i>, presented Motion CHC 101.0924 for approval.</p> <p>Dr. Li presented a motion to approve revisions to the committee charter, noting that the proposed changes were straightforward and outlined in the packet provided to committee members. He said that the revisions primarily focused on recognizing his role as the Chief Health Equity Officer, who will have an increased responsibility in supporting the committee. Dr. Li also mentioned that outdated language and references to committees or councils no longer in existence were revised for clarity. He also updated references to L.A. Care and its Board of Governors..</p> <p><b><u>Motion CHC 101.0924</u></b>  <b>To approve the Revisions to the Children’s Health Consultants Advisory Committee (CHCAC) Charter.</b></p>	<p><b>Approved Unanimously. 7 AYES</b></p>

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<p><b>CALIFORNIA BUDGET UPDATE AND IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH</b></p>	<p>Cherie Compartore, <i>Senior Director, Government Affairs</i>, and Erica Whitt, , gave a California Budget update and its impact on children and youth.</p> <p>Budget Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• California State Budget: The final budget for 2024-2025, totaling \$297.9 billion, was approved on June 29, 2024. This budget aims to address a significant deficit through fund shifts and early actions.</li> <li>• Key Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elimination of the Los Angeles County Child Welfare Services Public Health Nursing Program, resulting in a \$8.3 million reduction.</li> <li>○ A six-month delay in the implementation of a rate increase for developmental services, now starting January 1, 2025.</li> <li>○ Introduction of a \$9 million allocation for diaper and wipe distributions for low-income families.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCO Tax Renewal: The MCO tax has been renewed through December 31, 2026. This renewal includes provider rate increases for various specialties and the implementation of continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for children aged 0-5, effective January 1, 2026.</li> <li>• Potential Changes: The funding for these new programs may be affected if Proposition 35, a ballot measure set for November, passes.</li> </ul> <p>Legislative Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Priorities: The presentation highlighted several key bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SB 1289: This bill focuses on improving Medi-Cal call center standards and metrics.</li> <li>○ AB 2630: Mandates oral health assessments for transitional kindergarten students.</li> <li>○ AB 2319: Updates the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act, aiming to address implicit bias in healthcare settings.</li> <li>○ SB 1396: Addresses changes to the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program but is currently held in suspense.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Legislative Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important upcoming deadlines were noted, including the last day for each house to pass bills (August 31) and the governor’s deadline to sign or veto bills (September 30).</li> </ul>	

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 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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2/27/2025 | 9:23 AM PST

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

**APPROVED**