

# Birthing Care Pathway Overview

March 2024

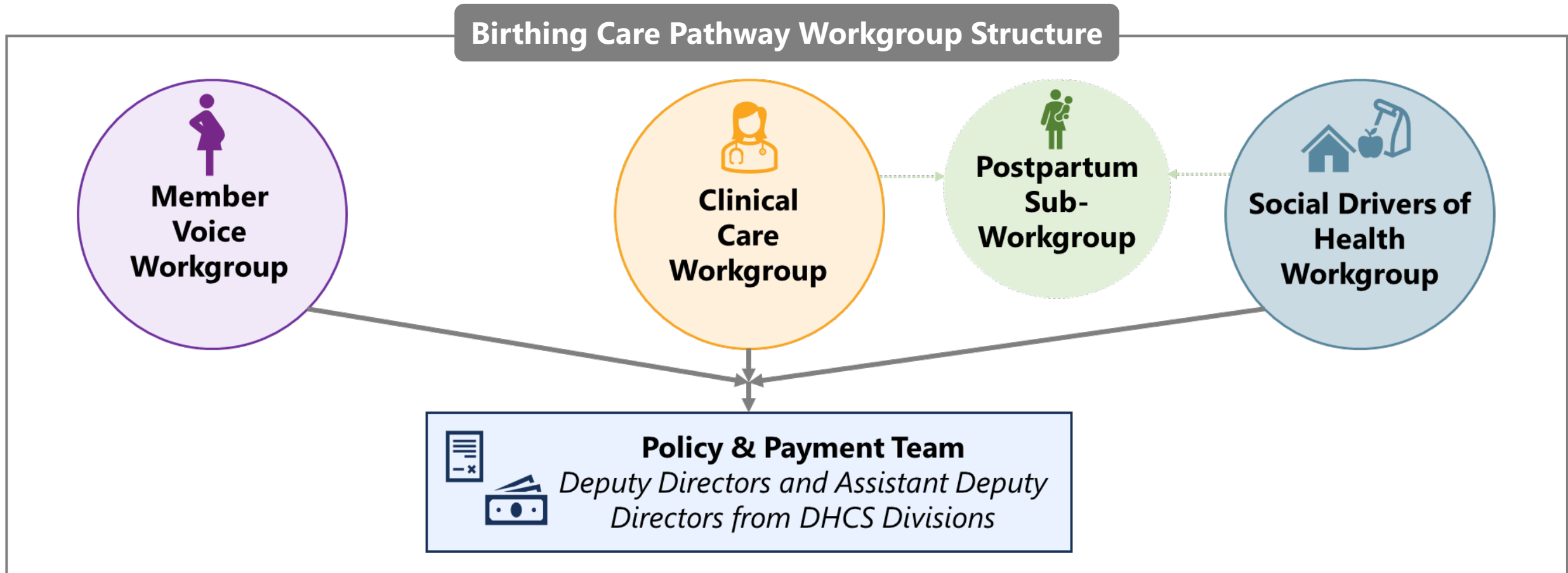
# Overview of DHCS Birthing Care Pathway

- ✓ DHCS is developing a comprehensive [Birthing Care Pathway](#) to cover the journey of a Medi-Cal member from conception through 12 months postpartum. The Birthing Care Pathway is for **all Medi-Cal members who are pregnant or postpartum**.
- ✓ The Birthing Care Pathway is envisioned as a care model with related benefit and payment strategies in Medi-Cal to **reduce maternal morbidity and mortality** and **address significant racial and ethnic disparities** in maternal health outcomes among Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander individuals.
- ✓ Through the Birthing Care Pathway, DHCS will **develop Medi-Cal care delivery policy and program initiatives** for pregnant and postpartum individuals that:
  - Encompass **physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs**
  - Translate **clinical and care management guidelines** into care processes and workflows across settings
  - Facilitate **adoption of these guidelines**
- ✓ DHCS plans to **publish a report in Summer 2024** outlining initial policy options DHCS has identified for the Birthing Care Pathway.




**The Birthing Care Pathway is generously supported by the California Health Care Foundation and the David & Lucile Packard Foundation.**

# Birthing Care Pathway Workgroups (1 of 2)

To inform the design of the Birthing Care Pathway, **DHCS has created three Workgroups:** the Clinical Care Workgroup, the Social Drivers of Health Workgroup, and the Postpartum Sub-Workgroup. In addition, an internal DHCS Policy & Payment team will work alongside the Workgroups and Sub-Workgroup.



# Birthing Care Pathway Workgroups (2 of 2)

Workgroups	Workgroup Charges	Workgroup Composition
 <b>Clinical Care Workgroup</b>	Identifying what needs to happen in the hospital, birth center, provider office, and other community settings from a Medi-Cal Member's perspective	OB/GYNs, certified nurse midwives, lactation consultants, doulas, Tribal health providers, pediatricians, birth centers, behavioral health providers, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), family medicine providers, managed care plans, the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP), and other local public health programs
 <b>Social Drivers of Health Workgroup</b>	Identifying programs and providers that currently address and/or are needed to address health related social needs in the prenatal and postpartum period	Community health workers, doulas, and other providers representing organizations addressing the social needs of pregnant and postpartum people including violence prevention organizations, local public health programs such as Maternal Child & Adolescent Health, CPSP, Black Infant Health, WIC, food banks and diaper banks; tribal social service partners; violence prevention organizations; organizations addressing housing and financial insecurity; home visiting providers; and providers with Black birthing expertise
 <b>Postpartum Sub-Workgroup</b>	Designing a clinical approach for what providers can do during the postpartum period to achieve positive health outcomes	Cross-representation from both the Clinical Care Workgroup and Social Drivers of Health Workgroup, as well as additional pediatricians, family physicians, and FQHC providers

# Birthing Care Pathway Member Engagement Activities

A foundational priority for DHCS in the Birthing Care Pathway is to ensure the design is shaped by Medi-Cal members with lived experience. **DHCS views members' pregnant and postpartum lived experience in Medi-Cal as expertise** that should inform the design of the Birthing Care Pathway, and DHCS is committed to partnering with members during this process.

## 2024 Birthing Care Pathway Medi-Cal Member Engagement Activities



Conducting **interviews** with Medi-Cal members who are pregnant or postpartum



Launching **Member Voice Workgroup** comprised of Medi-Cal members who are pregnant or postpartum



Inviting select Medi-Cal members who are pregnant or postpartum to submit **journal entries** about their perinatal experience over the course of several weeks

All members will be compensated for their participation.