

MEDI-CAL MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MMAC) AND MEDI-CAL VOICES AND VISION COUNCIL JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Date:	Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Time:	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Type of Meeting:	Virtual
Members Present:	23
DHCS Staff:	Michelle Baass, Director; Tyler Sadwith, State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs; Tracy Arnold, Assistant Director; Krissi Khokhobashvili, Deputy Director, Office of Communications; Erika Sperbeck, Chief Deputy Director, Policy and Program Support; Lauren Solis, Chief, Office of Medicare Innovation and Integration; Hatzune Aguilar, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager; Maria Romero-Mora, Community Engagement Analyst; Isabel Flores, Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Analyst, Eduardo Lozano, Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Analyst; Kiran Poonia, Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach Analyst
Additional Information	Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation used during the meeting for additional context and details.

MMAC Member Attendance:

- » 10 present, 3 not present

Voices and Vision Council Member Attendance:

- » Abigail Coursolle, Ann Marie Torres-Delgadillo, Azalia Ryckman, Christian Espinoza, Dr. Uchey Dijeh, Elissa Feld, Jenny McLelland, Kate Ross, Linnea Koopmans, Lucy



Marreno, Lupe Wilson, Marty Omoto, Michael McNulty, Mike Odeh, Sydney Turner, Tiffany Huyenh-Cho

5:30 – 5:35	Welcome
5:35 – 7:00	Kick off the MMAC and Voices and Vision Council
7:00 – 7:15	Breakout Rooms: Review Bylaws, Chair Elections, and Reflections
7:15 – 7:25	Member Comments
7:25 – 7:30	Closing Remarks

Welcome

Type of Action: Information

Presenter: Michelle Baass, Director

Discussion Topics:

- » Committee and council members were welcomed by DHCS and encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences openly, as well as to bring forward ideas for future discussion topics.

Kick off the MMAC and Voices and Vision Council

Type of Action: Information

Presenter: Maikhou, Hatzune, Maria

Discussion Topics:

- » The joint meeting of the Medi-Cal Medical Advisory Committee (MMAC) and the Medi-Cal Voices and Vision Council began with an emphasis on language justice and inclusive participation. Community norms were established to create a respectful environment. Two artists attended to capture key moments for a future art piece. Members introduced themselves and shared words, hopes, or images for the meeting. The presentation outlined the committees' shared goal: to elevate the voices of Medi-Cal members in shaping DHCS programs and policies. Committee members were encouraged to engage actively and co-create the agenda. The relationship between the groups was clarified, highlighting that MMAC discussions would inform the work of the Voices and



Vision Council. A feedback tracker was introduced to record recommendations for the 2026 annual report.

- » Committee members expressed a collective spirit of hope, inspiration, and unity, emphasizing the desire to end stigma around Medi-Cal and bring positivity and opportunity back to their communities. Themes of learning, growth, and collaboration emerged strongly, with committee members highlighting the importance of reflection, understanding, and partnership. Words like *alimentación* (nourishment), home, grace, love, and progress reflected both personal and community-centered aspirations. Several members spoke to the power of working together, listening deeply, and flourishing through shared perspectives. The tone reflected gratitude, tenacity, and empowerment, with a shared belief that when policy, people, and capabilities align, meaningful change is possible.
- » No conflicts of interest were identified from meeting participants.

Breakout Rooms: Review Bylaws, Chair Elections, and Reflections

Type of Action: Discussion with MMAC and Voices and Vision Council Committee Members

Presenter: Maria, Hatzune

MMAC Breakout Room:

- » MMAC meetings are closed meetings, and the Medi-Cal Voices and Vision Council will have two of its four annual meetings open to the public.
- » MMAC members requested to be notified when the Medi-Cal Voices and Vision Council meetings are open to the public.
- » Clarification was provided that MMAC meeting minutes are confidential and do not have any personal identifiable information when published.
- » One committee member suggested that there should be a Vice Chair in addition to a Chair, so people can get experience before stepping into the Chair position.
- » Committee members requested an explanation of the difference between the MMAC and Medi-Cal Voices and Vision Council.

Voices and Vision Council Breakout Room:

- » A committee member asked about the term length of the committee chair.

- » Committee members were asked what they hope the meetings will do for them, their community, or the Medi-Cal program overall.
- » Committee members said they hope the meetings will foster alignment, shared learning, and more effective decision-making, especially given limited resources. They also expressed a desire to build on what's already working well, replicating successes and enhancing current efforts.
- » A committee member emphasized the importance of addressing real-time, evolving issues that affect members' daily lives, and ensuring the group remains accountable and relevant.
- » Another committee member shared concerns about the inaccessibility of listed resources and expressed hope that the group could identify practical, inclusive solutions.
- » Committee members reflected on the complexity of the Medi-Cal program and the importance of making it easier for members to navigate, especially as external factors continue to add new challenges. They also felt the timing of launching both committees was appropriate and well-aligned with current needs.
- » Finally, members expressed interest in connecting efforts across systems, such as schools, to better support and serve communities.

Member Comments

Type of Action: Information

Discussion Topics:

- » This meeting fosters alignment and a smarter meeting environment. The group remains accountable and relevant. It simplifies the process for members.
- » Members want the bylaws in plain language. They will be revised and re-published.
- » Members thanked the DHCS team for bringing the communities together to better advocate.
- » Members appreciate that the two groups are brought together to make more precise and informed decisions with stakeholders.
- » California's approach in member engagement is working and will help protect the Medi-Cal program and the millions of people it serves.



Closing Remarks

Type of Action: Information

Presenter: Michelle Baass, Director

Discussion Topics:

- » The next MMAC meeting is on December 3, 2025.
- » The next Voices and Vision Council meeting is on December 17, 2025.

Action item:

- » Members requested that the meeting link be sent at 5:15 p.m. and provided directly in the email language reminders for members.

Adjournment of Meeting

Name of person who adjourned the meeting: Michelle Baass, Director

Time Adjourned: 7:18 p.m.