Nancy Netherland — MCHAP Chairperson Candidate Statement

After serving for the past year as Chair of the Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel (MCHAP), I am seeking the opportunity to continue in this role. My commitment remains grounded in MCHAP's central purpose: providing thoughtful, informed recommendations to the Department of Health Care Services on issues affecting children and youth enrolled in Medi-Cal.

During my first year as Chair, I worked to support productive collaboration among MCHAP members, DHCS, families, providers, and other partners. I have sought to ensure that our discussions reflect clinical and policy expertise alongside the realities of children and families navigating Medi-Cal. I remain committed to strengthening MCHAP as a forum where members can examine complex issues, ask difficult questions, and develop recommendations responsive to the experiences of Medi-Cal members.

For more than fifteen years, I have worked alongside families, physicians, health system leaders, and policymakers across California's safety-net systems. This year, I joined Family Voices of California as a Senior Specialist, supporting family leadership, policy engagement, and improvements to systems serving children and youth with special health care needs. My experience includes monitoring DHCS policy, developing strategic recommendations, and participating in state Medicaid initiatives involving CalAIM, telehealth, California Children's Services, foster youth, and consumer engagement.

My leadership responsibilities have also expanded through appointments to the American Academy of Pediatrics' national advisory board for children and youth with special health care needs, the HCAI Office of Health Care Affordability Health Care Affordability Advisory Committee, and the National Family Voices Organizational Advisory Committee. These roles allow me to connect MCHAP's work with broader state and national conversations about Medicaid, health care affordability, family leadership, and systems serving children with complex needs.

I also bring direct experience as the parent of former foster children with significant medical complexities who receive Medicaid through California's Adoption Assistance Program. Navigating Medi-Cal, specialty care, behavioral health services, California Children's Services, and other public systems has shown me how policy decisions and administrative processes affect children and families in practice.

If selected to serve another term, I will continue strengthening MCHAP's advisory capacity, promoting meaningful collaboration with DHCS, and supporting systematic feedback loops with families and professionals. I will work to ensure that our recommendations address access, affordability, quality, continuity of care, and administrative burden—particularly for children and youth with special health care needs.

MCHAP's effectiveness depends on the collective expertise of its members. As Chair, I will continue ensuring that every member has a meaningful opportunity to contribute and that our recommendations clearly communicate both the policy implications and the real-world consequences for children and families.

I respectfully request your support for another term as MCHAP Chair. Thank you for your consideration.