

Statement of interest and vision for the MCHAP Chair position.

My vision for the MCHAP is simple: Your time at MCHAP should be the most engaging, impactful and fulfilling time you spend professionally and/or as an advocate. Period. Otherwise we are not taking full advantage of what this incredible group has to offer. You are the experts, whether that is professional expertise, personal expertise, or both. Your time and knowledge are so valuable. Both you and the children served by MediCal deserve your best.

So that's my vision. I believe it supports your best interest, and the interest of the families we serve.

The mission then, is how we get there. Many of you read my thoughts I had provided after Dr. Beck's recent request for our ideas and feedback. I was very pleased that several of you approached me after our last meeting to share that you agreed with my thoughts and would support me as Chair. I'll be the first to admit that it is not easy to find the right balance between the breadth and depth of our work, particularly when we have such limited time together, while also having a near limitless set of areas we could try to address.

I had written previously about considering how to make better use of our meeting time. I discussed my concern about the balance of time spent with the panel receiving information over giving information (advising). I would like to explore with you whether it would be reasonable to deliver some of this information to the panel in email form, for the panel members to review prior to the meetings. Regardless of how we do it, the goal is to have more time to actually get the full panel's input on the issue at hand. I really want each member to know that their voice has been heard.

Additionally, we can make structural changes to the agenda process that better allow for full participation of each panel member. I know there are specific issues that are important to you and that you would like the panel to consider taking action on. I want to be sure we include time in each meeting for you to discuss your thoughts on such issues with the panel.

With all of that said, I want to also be sure what we are working on will actually be impactful. I believe the key to this is seeking more input from DHCS/Director Kent on how we can best align our goals and their need for our input. Otherwise we risk wasting our precious time on producing something that isn't completely helpful or needed.

So this is the direction I believe we should go in. Again, you are the experts, so I look forward to your input on how we will indeed make your time on the MCHAP truly fulfilling and enjoyable!

Ken Hempstead, M.D., F.A.A.P.

Communication Consultant
Immunization Champion
Regional Vaccine Communication Lead
Delegate, California Medical Association
Mindfulness/Wellness Instructor

Department of Pediatrics, Roseville, CA
The Permanente Medical Group