

Nancy Netherland - MCHAP Chairperson Candidate Statement

I am submitting my candidacy for MCHAP chair as part of a broader movement to authentically center patient and member expertise in healthcare leadership.

For over fifteen years, I've worked alongside physicians, CEOs, and policymakers on leadership teams across California's safety net systems. As Director of Parent and Caregiver Engagement at California Children's Trust, I collaborated with families and clinical leaders while monitoring DHCS policy, drafting strategic recommendations, and serving on state Medicaid workgroups including CalAIM, Telehealth, CCS, and Foster Youth. I've secured and supported compliance for over one hundred million dollars in federal and state funding for FQHCs and County Health Programs, demonstrating that lived experience paired with professional expertise creates powerful leadership. As the parent of former foster children living with medical complexities—receiving Medicaid through the State's Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)—I also have firsthand experience of the Medi-Cal benefit programs.

I look forward to contributing to the ongoing collaboration between MCHAP and DHCS and embodying the promise of the member-centered vision proposed in the recent DHCS CalAIM concept paper.

MCHAP's foundational purpose is providing recommendations to DHCS on issues affecting children enrolled in Medi-Cal. This candidacy represents something larger than any single election—it's about fulfilling MCHAP's mission by ensuring our recommendations truly reflect the realities of children and families we serve. Recent feedback from families to DHCS makes clear that parents and caregivers are ready to move from consultation to collaboration, from advisory roles to facilitation and leadership.

As what I believe is the first non-physician to seek this chairperson role, I'm part of a narrative shift recognizing that those who navigate systems daily as members possess essential expertise for leading them. My candidacy signals that within the next five years, individuals with both lived experience and professional credentials will routinely occupy leadership positions in California's health policy landscape.

My vision for chairing MCHAP centers on strengthening our advisory capacity through authentic partnerships. I propose establishing systematic feedback loops with families and professionals, supporting family-designed quality metrics, and ensuring our recommendations to DHCS are grounded in both evidence and lived experience.

MCHAP's mandate to advise DHCS requires transformational leadership that bridges clinical expertise with member experience. California's children deserve recommendations reflecting both policy frameworks and family reality.

This candidacy is an investment in that future. Whether today or tomorrow, I respectfully request your support of member expertise in healthcare leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.