

December 11th, 2023

Key Takeaways

During the discussion on the **Population Needs Assessment**:

- DHCS:
 - Reviewed milestones in the development of the modified Population Needs Assessment (PNA) over the course of 2023 and reiterated core MCP requirements.
 - MCPs must meaningfully participate in local health departments' (LHD) Community Health Assessments (CHA)/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) in each service area where they operate rather than conducting similar, separate processes.
 - MCPs must submit an annual PHM Strategy deliverable to DHCS that demonstrates how MCPs respond to community needs and provides other PHM programmatic updates.
 - Flagged the forthcoming release of updated PNA guidance before the end of 2023 to set MCP requirements for 2024 – 2027.
 - Unveiled a timeline outlining local health jurisdictions' (LHJ) CHA/CHIP schedules, with support from the California Department of Public Health (CHA). 2024 – 2027 will serve as a glide path to 2028 when all LHJs and MCPs will be expected to operate on the same three-year cycles.
 - Explained collaboration requirements for both prime and subcontracted MCPs.
 - Prime MCPs must participate in every LHJ CHA/CHIP in their service area. Those operating in multiple counties/cities must participate in multiple CHAs/CHIPs.
 - Prime MCPs must ensure all populations covered by subcontracted MCPs are included in their PNA processes.
 - When multiple Prime MCPs are operating in the same service area, they must collaborate with each other and the LHJ to foster a unified planning process. They must coordinate the types of investments they will provide (e.g., in-kind staffing and funding), data sharing, and communications with LHJs.

- Emphasized that MCPs working on LHJ CHA/CHIPs will benefit from cultivating stronger relationships not only with LHJs, but along with other participating community stakeholders.
- Reviewed MCP PNA requirements related to the PNA, resource contributions, and stakeholder engagement/publishing.
- Previewed the MCP-LHJ Collaboration Worksheet, expected to be completed by August 2024, and the 2024 PHM Strategy Deliverable template, which will be released to MCPs in Spring 2024 and due in October 2024.
- Solicited feedback from Advisory Group members on the content presented in advance of the policy guidance release.
- California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), and County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC):
 - Provided an overview of Yuba, Sutter, and San Joaquin Counties' Community Health Assessment (CHA)/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) processes, discussed the value of alignment with the modified PNA, and shared best practices for MCP-LHJ partnership and collaboration.
 - Underscored the importance of these collaborative efforts to reduce duplication and community fatigue among stakeholders and allow for a deeper understanding of how each entity operates.
 - Emphasized the advantages of an upstream view to achieve timely, whole-person, high-quality care for Medi-Cal members by connecting them to public health services and programs.
- PHM Advisory Group Members and Other Stakeholders:
 - Expressed overall support for the proposed approach.
 - Emphasized the significance of dedicated funding sources to support the development of CHAs and implementation of CHIPs.
 - Inquired how Yuba, Sutter, and San Joaquin Counties built out their governance structures, leveraged work done by community health workers (CHWs) and other local allied professionals, and created pathways to apply for funding for CHA/CHIP implementation.
 - Asked which strategies in Yuba, Sutter, and San Joaquin Counties' CHIPs are addressing built environment, which emerged as an issue in their CHAs.
 - Requested clarification on whether PHM Strategy deliverables and MCP-LHJ Collaboration Worksheets would be made public.

- Asked for further guidance on how MCPs should engage their Community Advisory Committees (CAC) as part of their participation in CHA/CHIP processes.
- Asked about DHCS/CDPH's requirements for engaging Tribal organizations in CHA/CHIP discussions.
- Inquired how the modified PNA aligns with submission requirements for NCQA-accredited MCPs.