

**California Children's Services (CCS)
Advisory Group Meeting
October 11, 2023
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

MEETING SUMMARY

DHCS Members Attended: Alyssa Hedrick, Amara Bahramiaref, Annette Lee, Ariana Hader-Smith, Barbara Sasaki, Carolyn Smith, Chana Lucero, Dr. Cheryl Walker, Cortney Maslyn, Erica Grant, Isabel Lacuesta, Jalal Haddad, James Mason, Janeen Newman, Jennifer Allen, Dr. Jill Abramson, Jin Chong, Joe Oduoza, Joseph Billingsley, Joseph Schulman, Katie Ramsey, Dr. Maria Jocson, Megan Sharpe, Olivia Thomas, Dr. Palav Babaria, Sabrina Atoyebi, Sean Barber, Srilatha Jonnalagadda, Steven Cueto, Susan Philip, and Trevor Marshall

Advisory Group Members Attended: Allison Gray, Amy Westling, Ann Kuhns, Dr. Anthony Magit, Dr. Carol Miller, Dena Davis, Erin Kelly, Francesca Peterson, Jolie Onodera, Dr. Jerry Cheng, Katherine Barresi, Kelly Hardy, Lara Khouri, Kristen Dimou, Kristen Rogers, Laurie Soman, Lianna Chen, Dr. Mary Giammona, Michael Harris, Michael Hunn, Michelle Gibbons, Dr. Miriam Parsa, Stephanie Dansker, Susan Skotzke, Tamica Fouts-Rachal (proxy Nick Lutton), and Whitney Clark

Absent: Ann Kinkor, Linnea Koopmans, Jennifer Mockus, Beth Malinowski, and Dominique Hensler

Presenters: Kinisha Campbell and Kayce Velarde (Kaiser Permanente), Lael Lambert (Marin County), and Dr. Anand Chabra (San Mateo County),

CCS Advisory Group Meeting Materials: Agenda and Slide Deck

AGENDA

**I. Welcome and Housekeeping
*Joseph Billingsley, Asst. Deputy Director
Health Care Delivery Systems***

Welcomed participants, announced roll call will be taken from the meeting attendance log and introduced new committee member Katherine Barresi, Chief Health Services Officer, Partnership HealthPlan of California.

***Sabrina Atoyebi, Branch Chief
Medical Operations Branch***

Reviewed housekeeping and meeting logistics.

II. Director Remarks and July Meeting Recap
***Susan Philip, Deputy Director
Health Care Delivery Systems***

Meeting participants and the Advisory Group members were thanked for attending and for working with the DHCS to provide input, valuable perspective, and for offering suggestions to continue improving the CCS program. October is the last Advisory Group meeting for the 2023 year.

Senate Bill (SB) 544, Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, is currently pending approval. If approved, SB 544 would require CCS Advisory Group meetings to provide an in-person meeting option. DHCS has decided that regardless of the outcome, both virtual and in-person attendance options will be offered starting January 2024. More information will be shared prior to the January 10, 2024, meeting. The 2024 quarterly meeting schedule is posted on the [Advisory Group \(ca.gov\)](https://www.advisorygroup.ca.gov) webpage.

The meeting agenda topics were shared noting appreciation for the collaborative discussions between DHCS, Kaiser, and the counties to make the Kaiser implementation as smooth as possible for CCS families.

In closing, it was announced that Jacey Cooper, State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs, is leaving DHCS in October to join the federal Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services. Various Advisory Group members expressed their best wishes to Jacey and wished her well.

***Sabrina Atoyebi, Branch Chief
Medical Operations Branch***

Reviewed agenda topics presented at the July meeting.

III. Policy Initiatives

CalAIM CCS Compliance, Monitoring and Oversight Workgroup Update
***Katie Ramsey, Unit Chief
Quality and Monitoring Branch***

CCS Monitoring and Oversight updates were given. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between DHCS and the county CCS programs was released for public comment from September 26, 2023, to October 11, 2023. The MOU includes a supporting roles and responsibilities table for each county model, and related guidance documents. The MOU will be executed on or before July 1, 2024.

The current status and next steps for the following Numbered Letters (NLs) was provided: Grievance, Appeals and State Hearing, CCS Program Reporting and Survey, Training and Electronic Visit Verification were provided. For more information and details related to these NLs, please refer to the [October 2023 AG PowerPoint presentation](#).

IV. Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program Transition
Sabrina Atoyebi, Branch Chief
Medical Operations Branch

The CHDP program will transition on July 1, 2024. The transition plan was released for public comment on September 27, 2023, through October 11, 2023, and will be posted on the DHCS website by December 31, 2023. Training, communication, and guidance documents will continue to be released throughout the transition period. For more information, please visit the [CHDP Transition \(ca.gov\)](#) webpage.

V. CCS Redesign Performance Measure Quality Subcommittee
Sabrina Atoyebi, Branch Chief
Medical Operations Branch

Updates were provided for the subcommittee goals and authorizing statute to identify and create an actionable plan to implement metrics that could be applied to both CCS Classic and Whole Child Model (WCM) programs. The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2023, and will focus on guiding principles for measure selection, domains, preliminary discussion of feasible measures by domain, and the measure selection process. For more information about the Performance Measure Quality Subcommittee, please visit the [RedesignSubcommittee \(ca.gov\)](#) webpage.

VI. WCM Readiness: DHCS Updates
Joseph Billingsley, Assistant Deputy Director
Health Care Delivery Systems

Joseph Billingsley provided DHCS updates on WCM readiness. Kaiser has been authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 2724 (Chapter 73, Statutes of 2022) to

implement as a WCM plan in the following eight (8) WCM counties in which it will operate effective January 1, 2024. The counties are Marin, Napa, Orange, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo.

DHCS provided 28 WCM plan readiness deliverables list to Kaiser on June 30, 2023, including, but not limited to, continuity of care, member notices, provider network, pediatric health risk assessment, maintenance and transportation, beneficiary outreach and access to durable medical equipment. Kaiser has been proficiently meeting the due dates and has been responsive to requests for additional information.

Planned WCM implementation for 2025 is authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 118 (Chapter 42, Statutes of 2023) for expansion into twelve (12) new County Organized Health System (COHS) counties effective January 1, 2025. Central California Alliance for Health will implement as a COHS plan in Mariposa and San Benito Counties. Partnership HealthPlan of California will expand as a COHS plan into Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties.

AB 118, in line with AB 2724, authorizes Kaiser to implement as a WCM plan in four (4) COHS expansion counties (Mariposa, Placer, Sutter and Yuba).

VII. Enhanced Care Management (ECM)

Dr. Palav Babaria, Chief Quality and Medical Officer and Deputy Director Quality Population Health Management

Dr. Babaria provided an update on the implementation of ECM for the CCS population of focus benefit that went live July 1, 2023. MCPs will submit data 45 days after the quarter closes. The first data set is expected by mid-November 2023 (i.e., enrollment by sub-population of focus, where gaps or issues may exist) and an update will be provided at the next meeting in January.

DHCS has met with stakeholders and the MCPs to get feedback toward the goals of reducing administrative burden and improving referral pathways. There was a revised policy and multi-pronged approach instituted over the summer to help streamline a number of these pieces. A standardized referral form and process across the State will be rolling out for ECM in 2024. For more information on Enhanced Care Community Supports, please visit the [Enhanced Care Management/Community Supports: A Policy “Cheat Sheet”](#) and [ECM Resources \(ca.gov\)](#) webpages.

Members expressed concern with ECM administrative challenges and noted there may not be enough pediatric providers available. Dr. Babaria noted more

Child and Youth ECM vendor providers are needed and encouraged more providers to sign up on the Technical Assistance (TA) Marketplace website. For information about the TA Marketplace and to learn more about becoming a vendor, please visit the [PATH | TPA \(ca-path.com\)](https://ca-path.com) webpage.

VIII. WCM Readiness: Kaiser Update

Kayce Velarde, Executive Director, California Medi-Cal and State Sponsored Programs

Kinisha Campbell, Executive Director, Medi-Cal Care Coordination Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente (Kaiser) provided updates on their case management structure and member/community engagement. Kaiser will send transition notices to appropriate members 60 and 30 days in advance of the January 1, 2024, transition. Notices are planned for November 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023, respectively. Existing WCM CCS children with a pre-established relationship with Kaiser will automatically transition to Kaiser on January 1, 2024, with no disruption of care for these members. Those WCM children with no current Kaiser relationship will not automatically transition.

Members expressed some concern with Kaiser's readiness to implement by January 1, 2024, and requested transparency of the key deliverables and performance milestone information provided by Kaiser. The Kaiser County readiness document is posted on the [WCM page](#). DHCS will follow up and send information as appropriate.

Members also inquired about Kaiser's network adequacy. Updates on network adequacy will be provided at the next meeting in January. Please refer to the posted PowerPoint presentation ([Past Meeting Materials \(ca.gov\)](#)) for more information about Kaiser readiness.

IX. WCM Readiness: County Perspective

***Lael Lambert, CCS Administrator
Marin County***

Lael Lambert, representing Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties, provided an update on their collective feedback on the successes and challenges of implementing the WCM program, and how they are working with Kaiser to prepare for the January 1, 2024, implementation of Kaiser as a WCM health plan. These counties have met four (4) times with DHCS and Kaiser, and four (4) times with Kaiser since July 2023. During these meetings the parties have discussed how are children identified as CCS/MTU both at the referral and for ongoing case management, and what the definition of case management is. The counties meet

with Kaiser for two (2) hours every two (2) weeks and with DHCS monthly. Going forward the counties are focused on agreement of definitions, policies, and roles/responsibilities, the WCM MOU and establishing clinical and parent advisory meetings, and individual county meetings with Kaiser.

***Dr. Anand Chabra, Medical Director
San Mateo County***

Dr. Anand Chabra provided an update on San Mateo County's relationship with Kaiser. Prior to 2013 the relationship was limited to Medical Therapy Unit (MTU), Durable Medical Equipment (DME), orthodontia, and special care services outside the Kaiser system. Through the CCS Pilot (2013 to 2018) and WCM implementation (2018 – present) the Medical Therapy Conference relationship has continued with Kaiser and now a Kaiser pediatric specialist and non-clinical representative take part on the CCS Clinical Advisory Committee. A helpful aspect of the relationship with has been having access to the Kaiser EPIC portal. CCS San Mateo staff and Kaiser representatives meet quarterly to check-in, address problems and ensure good communication.

X. Public Comment and Wrap Up
***Joseph Billingsley, Assistant Deputy Director
Health Care Delivery Systems***

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 PM