

**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
California Children's Services (CCS)
Advisory Group Meeting
July 12, 2023
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

MEETING SUMMARY

DHCS members attended: Amara Bahramioref, Annette Lee, Ariana Hader-Smith, Barbara Sasaki, Dr. Cheryl Walker, Cortney Maslyn, Frances Harville, Jalal Haddad, Jennifer Allen, Dr. Jill Abramson, Joe Oduza, Joseph Billingsley, Kailey Jackson, Katie Ramsey, Dr. Maria Jocson, Michael Luu, Michelle Baass, Olivia Thomas, Paris Richardson, Sabrina Atoyebi and Srilatha Jonnalagadda

Advisory Group Stakeholder members attended: Allison Gray, Ann Kinkor, Ann Kuhns, Dr. Anthony Magit, Dr. Carol Miller, Dena Davis, Francesca Peterson, Jolie Onodera, Jennifer Mockus, Dr. Jerry Cheng, Kelly Hardy, Lara Khouri, Kristen Dimou, Lael Lambert, Laurie Soman, Lianna Chen, Linnea Koopmans, Dr. Mary Giammona, Michael Harris, Michael Hunn, Michelle Gibbons, Dr. Miriam Parsa, Stephanie Dansker, Susan Skotzke, Whitney Clark

Guests: Dr. Richard Rabens and Kinisha Campbell (Kaiser Permanente), Sarah Brooks (Sellers Dorsey LLC), Sarah Leff (California Department of Public Health – Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division)

CCS Advisory Group Meeting Materials: Agenda and Slide Deck

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Housekeeping
Joseph Billingsley, Asst. Deputy Director
Department of Health Care Services

Welcomed participants, announced roll call will be taken from the meeting attendance log and introduced new committee member Tamica Fooks-Rachal, Project Director for Family Voices.

Sabrina Atoyebi, Branch Chief
Medical Operations Branch

Reviewed housekeeping and meeting logistics.

II. Department Updates and April Meeting Recap
Michelle Baass, Director
Department of Health Care Services

Director Michelle Baass thanked meeting participants for their attendance and for championing the CCS program for children and youth with special health care needs. She further provided Department updates including DHCS' commitment to continue hosting the California Children's Services (CCS) Advisory Group meetings each quarter; a Whole Child Model (WCM) evaluation follow-up meeting was held to further discuss the results and findings; Kaiser continues their implementation readiness as a managed care plan in existing WCM counties effective January 1, 2024; the expansion of WCM, to new counties, is postponed to January 2025.

On July 1, 2023, Enhanced Care Management (ECM) was made available to CCS children and youth. Efforts are being launched to make ECM care managers available to help serve and coordinate care among all child health care, behavioral health and social services providers. CCS providers, at the county level, are encouraged to connect with the managed care plan to assess the feasibility of becoming an ECM provider. To support the efforts, DHCS continues to implement, the Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) five-year initiative to build-up capacity and infrastructure of on-the-ground partners. Partners such as community-based organizations (CBO), public hospitals, county agencies, tribes, and others, to successfully participate in the Medi-Cal delivery system as California widely implements [Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports](#).

On August 17, 2023, DHCS will host a CCS Quality Metrics Workgroup meeting. CCS serves some of Medi-Cal's most vulnerable children. The workgroup will consider appropriate metrics that allow for assessment of quality of care including clinical outcomes.

The CCS Monitoring and Oversight workgroup concluded with a capstone meeting on June 26, 2023. The workgroup's collaborative process resulted in a CCS Compliance, Monitoring and Oversight program, Memorandum of Understanding template, related Numbered Letters and compliance activities. The efforts will standardize and enhance efforts to promote accessibility, transparency, monitoring, and oversight for the CCS program statewide.

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

Reviewed agenda topics from the April meeting.

III. Policy Initiatives

**Cal AIM CCS Monitoring and Oversight Workgroup Update
*Sarah Brooks, DHCS Consultant with Sellers Dorsey***

Provided CCS Monitoring and Oversight Workgroup and Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program Transition Workgroup updates.

**IV. Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Program (HACCP)
*Kailey Jackson, Health Program Specialist II
Benefits Division***

Provided an update on Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Program.

Program information can be found at: [Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Program \(ca.gov\)](#)

**V. Whole Child Model (WCM) Expansion
*Joseph Billingsley***

Provided a Whole Child Model (WCM) Trailer Bill update. Implementation in all new County Organized Health System (COHS) counties is delayed to January 1, 2025.

Effective January 1, 2025, WCM will expand as follows:

- Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH) into Mariposa and San Benito counties
- Partnership Health Care into Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties
- Kaiser Permanente into Placer, Sutter, Yuba and Mariposa counties

VI. Kaiser Whole Child Model Readiness
Dr. Jerry Cheng, Dr. Richard Rabens and Kinisha Campbell
Kaiser Permanente

Provided an update on Kaiser’s readiness to implement as a managed care plan in current WCM counties by January 1, 2024.

Effective January 1, 2024, Kaiser will implement as a WCM plan in the following existing WCM counties:

- Marin, Napa, Orange, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties.

VII. Title V Needs Assessment
Dr. Maria Jocson, Medical Officer
Integrated Systems of Care Division

Sarah Leff, Director
Title V Special Health Care Needs
Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health Division
California Department of Public Health

Provided an update on the Title V program and the federal legislative requirement to conduct a needs assessment of the program.

Questions can be directed to the Child & Youth Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) email inbox at CYSHCN@cdph.ca.gov

VIII. Public Comment and Closing
Joseph Billingsley, DHCS Asst. Deputy Director

Provided closing remarks and announced the date of the next meeting on October 11, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

MEETING SUMMARY ADDENDUM

Due to time constraints the following updates were not presented. Updates are provided below.

Transition of Care

- The Numbered Letter (NL) stakeholder feedback period closed June 23, 2023. The most common feedback themes included:
 - Readability
 - The member Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and all subsequent FAQs, will be evaluated and adjusted to a 6th grade reading level, to the best extent possible, before being published.
 - Difference Between Pediatric and Adult Health Care
 - Acknowledge that young adults at the age of 18 are making their own healthcare decisions, except where a conservatorship exists, and acknowledge that some pediatric doctors will see young adults through the age of 21. The member FAQ will be updated to reflect both variables.
 - Add language for scenarios when beneficiaries can continue to see their pediatric care provider at, and after, 21 years of age.
 - Additional Clarification
 - Feedback highlighted that some beneficiaries may not qualify for full scope Medi-Cal. Non-full scope Medi-Cal program options need to be included.
 - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) available benefits for Medical Therapy Program (MTP) vs non-MTP
 - Added more resources to the Additional Resources
 - Covered California
 - Provided links to Managed Care Plans (MCPs) with phone numbers
 - Provided a list of people and advocacy groups that may provide additional guidance and resources.
 - Next Steps
 - Make necessary edits
 - Modify readability to a 6th grade level
 - Publish on DHCS website; share with members and stakeholders
 - Begin work on county FAQ document

CCS Program Updates

CCS guidance updates are as follows:

- Inter-County Transfer (ICT) and Whole Child Model Numbered Letters (NL) will be issued at the same time. The ICT NL was sent to the Inter-County Transfer Workgroup for feedback and will be sent out for external stakeholder review.
- Whole Child Model NL was sent for external stakeholder review and is currently under management review before posting.
- TeleHealth NL was released Friday, July 7th and is available on the [CCS Numbered Letters \(ca.gov\)](#) webpage.
- Emergency Services NL is under review and will be sent for external stakeholder review upon approval.
- CCS Rheumatology Standards were reviewed by external stakeholders and are currently under internal review.
- CCS Core Standards are under review by other divisions within the department.
- Updated CCS Public Health Emergency (PHE) plan was emailed to counties and posted to the CCS program web page on June 29, 2023. The guidance supersedes the guidance released April 25, 2023.

CCS Quality Metrics Workgroup:

- DHCS will host a CCS Quality Metrics Workgroup meeting on August 17, 2023. The workgroup will work with external stakeholders to identify and improve health outcomes and quality of care for children and youth. Those interested in joining the workgroup should email CCSProgram@dhcs.ca.gov.
- DHCS held internal meetings to discuss the scope of the workgroup, reviewed metrics from past workgroup efforts and are making efforts to identify new metrics. Anticipate sharing the list of proposed metrics (clinical and non-clinical) for discussion at the August kickoff meeting.
- The integrated CCS/WCM Dashboard and CCS/WCM Quality Dashboard was updated in March 2023 and is located at [WCM Dashboard \(ca.gov\)](#)