

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Children's Health Consultant Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary – May 17, 2022

1055 W. Seventh Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN

Members

Tara Ficek, MPH, *Chair**
Linda Aragon, MPH*
Edward Bloch, MD*
Maria Chandler, MD, MBA
James Cruz, MD*
Rebecca Dudovitz, MD, MS
Rosina Franco, MD

Susan Fleischman, MD*
Toni Frederick, PhD*
Gwendolyn Ross Jordan
Lynda Knox, PhD
James Kyle, MD, M.Div.
Nayat Mutafyan*
Hilda Perez

Maryjane Puffer, BSN, MPA
Richard Seidman, MD, MPH
Ilan Shapiro, MD, FAAP*
Diane Tanaka, MD*

Management

James Kyle, MD, *Chief of Equity and Quality Medical Director, Quality Improvement*
Katrina Miller Parrish, MD, FAAP, *Chief Quality and Information Executive, Health Services*
Michael Brodsky, MD, *Medical Director, Behavioral Health and Social Services, Behavioral Health*

**Absent **Present, but not quorum*

California Governor Newsom issued Executive Orders No. N-25-20 and N-29-20, which among other provisions amend the Ralph M. Brown Act. Members of the public can hear and observe this meeting via teleconference and videoconference, and can share their comments via voicemail, email or text.

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
CALL TO ORDER	Tara Ficek, MPH, <i>Chairperson</i> , called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. without a quorum.	
APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA	The committee reached a quorum at 9:02 a.m. The Agenda for today's meeting was approved as submitted	Approved unanimously. 9 AYES (Chandler, Dudovitz, Ficek, Frederick, Mutafyan, Perez, Puffer, Ramos, Seidman)
APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES	Member Maryjane Puffer, BSN, MPA, noted that on page 8 of the November 16, 2021 meeting minutes Member Hilda Perez's name is spelled wrong. The November 16, 2021 meeting minutes were approved with the corrections mentioned above.	Approved unanimously.

APPROVED

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT	Chairperson Ficek stated that she is happy to see that the state budget is on the agenda. First5LA has moved past the budget development process and the Governor's meeting on Friday sharing the latest of the may revise. They are trying to process and understand what is coming. She noted a change coming to Medi-Cal tied to community health workers. It has been an area of focus at First5LA. She believes it holds much promise and potential. It would be great to bring that to the committee at a future meeting to better understand the landscape of community health workers throughout the county.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment was submitted.	
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT	<p>Member Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, gave the May 2022 Chief Medical Officer report. <i>(A copy of the written report can be obtained from Board Services.)</i></p> <p>COVID-19 Update</p> <p>In its May 4, 2022 Weekly Epidemiology Report, the World Health Organization shares that globally, cases and deaths have been declining since the end of March 2002 with 3.8 million new cases and over 15,000 deaths reported in one week from late April to early May. Regional variations persist with the African Region and the Americas experiencing an increase in cases, including here in the United States. Cumulatively, there have been more than 500 million confirmed cases and over 6 million deaths from COVID-19. Cases in California and Los Angeles County have been increasing over the past month driven primarily by the highly infectious Omicron sub variant BA.2. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health announced in its daily press release on May 9, 2022 that the steady increase in cases over the last month has seen the number of cases increase to 2,532 average daily, up from 905 cases per day one month earlier. Fortunately, this increase in cases has not resulted in an increase in serious illness with "hospitalizations and deaths remaining low and decreasing." L.A. Care is seeing a similar increase in recent cases, with a stable number of hospitalizations and deaths.</p> <p>L.A. Care is continuing its efforts in collaboration with the L.A. County Department of Public Health and other community partners to promote vaccination and booster shots and efforts to promote awareness of the increasing availability of the highly effective anti-viral medication for people at increased risk for serious illness and an injectable monoclonal antibody shot for people with moderate to severe immunocompromised. He noted that Pfizer has gotten approval for boosters for 5 to 11-year-old age group. Still waiting for approval for children under 5 years of age.</p>	

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	<p>Baby Formula Shortage</p> <p>He hoped that WIC in California would not be impacted by the baby formula shortage. The most impacted are the Abbot Labs that were shut down in Michigan. Specialty formulas are being more impacted than regular formulas. The California WIC contract is with Mead Johnson. He has checked with a couple of providers that have had issues getting specialty formulas, but there is great article published by the Public Health Foundation Enterprises with tips for WIC beneficiaries to get the formula that they need.</p> <p>Member Maria Chandler, MD, stated that they are getting lots of calls from frantic parents. They are experiencing trouble procuring regular formula and special formulas. She saw that a public health agency put out a guidance through the Biden Administration, but it did not say how to find formula. She is trying to put something together for their patients.</p> <p>Member Seidman said that he read that President Biden is trying to relax the restrictions so that a WIC beneficiary can get any appropriate formula. The Public Health Foundation Enterprises does have tips. He will ask Board Services to circulate the website to the committee.</p> <p>Member Rebecca Dudovitz, MD, MS, said that information about how to access baby formulas would be helpful to families. They are fortunate at UCLA to be attached to a very active newborn intensive care unit and have had to tap into specialty formula. She agrees she has not seen more systematic messaging on how to get specialty baby formula and thinks it would be very helpful. Member Seidman thanked her for her comments and stated that safety messaging would be very important.</p> <p>CalAIM implementation and operations continue to evolve as L.A. Care works to support the more than 15,000 members now served by our contracted Enhanced Care Management (ECM) providers and nearly 9,000 members receiving Community Supports (Homeless and Housing Support Services, Recuperative Care, and Medically Tailored Meals). Staff are also working on the implementation of new Community Supports including Housing Deposits, Personal Care and Respite, and Sobering Centers, effective 7/1/22. L.A. Care staff are collaborating to add 35 new Clinics to those already using HIE data to increase the availability of clinical information at the point of care. L.A. Care, in partnership with the other Los Angeles area Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans offered a 3rd round of ECM Boot Camp, a comprehensive training for new hires with ECM Provider agencies and is developing an on demand training to make this key training even more accessible. L.A. Care's ECM team continues to host provider-facing webinars every other Friday, and</p>	

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	<p>training offerings are a mix of clinical skills, best practices, ECM operations and technical assistance.</p> <p>Medi-Cal Pharmacy Update As of April 2022, Medi-Cal Rx continues to resolve outpatient pharmacy benefit issues. The most current update is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The backlog of prior authorization requests (PAs) has been resolved and all PAs submitted by the prescriber or the pharmacy are now being adjudicated within 24 hours. • In order to resolve the PA backlog, Medi-Cal Rx had to temporarily lift PA criteria for some frequently prescribed drugs. Those criteria were scheduled to be re-introduced in May. However, that decision has been changed due to fear that it will create another backlog. Instead, Medi-Cal Rx has decided to undertake a prescriber education campaign and begin re-introducing the PAs gradually over time. Of note is that the date to end the transition period, which is June 30th, and begin using Medi-Cal Rx's formulary (they call it Covered Drug List or CDL) has not been changed. • Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) coverage clarified: CGMs are covered under Medi-Cal Rx only for type 1 DM. The coverage of the CGMs for any other indication is the responsibility of the managed care plan's medical benefit. L.A. Care covers the CGMs for type 2 diabetes with UM criteria on the medical benefit. <p>Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set HEDIS Medical Record Review (MRR) for Measurement Year 2021 (MY2021) project is in progress with overall rates trending higher than last year. For the DHCS Managed Care Accountability Set (MCAS) measures that are held to the Minimum Performance Level (MPL), all are expected to reach the 50 percentile except Childhood Immunization Status and the two Well Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life measures which have multiple time bound requirements making the measures very challenging to meet successfully. HEDIS interventions for MY 2022 include the Well Child Care Visit Text Messaging Campaign targeting 22,343 members and the Cervical Cancer Screening texting campaign targeting 35,720 members</p> <p>Member Puffer asked if the HEDIS review only for 2021 and is it related to COVID-19. She asked if there are additional HEDIS measures being looked at. Member Seidman responded that MCAS has 20 plus quality measures in it. It is about two years that the state has switched to this new set of measures. They set a minimal performance level of 50</p>	

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	percentile of the national average. L.A. Care is currently meeting or exceeding for all, but two measures.	
School Telehealth Services	<p>Dorothy Seleski, <i>Vice President, Health Net</i>, gave a presentation about Hazel Health (<i>A copy of the presentation can be obtained from Board Services.</i>)</p> <p>Hazel Health: A school based telehealth solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 20 million children in the U.S. lack sufficient access to essential health care • Hazel developed the leading solution for on demand, school-based care • Health Net invested \$3M to expand Hazel Health services in CA by adding 200 new school sites across the state <p>Hazel works with school districts to give families and staff access to telehealth services. Hazel is the only telehealth service designed specifically for children and schools and serves nearly 2 million children across the nation. Whatever the need mental health and physical health for integrated care and wherever they are at school and at home for on-demand Access.</p> <p>Hazel's Model Pediatric Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed providers are experts in full suite of child needs • Expanding whole-child health by filling critical gaps • Culturally-competent care by our diverse providers (40% POC) • Manage PCP referrals and prescriptions <p>School Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated into school workflow • HIPAA/FERPA compliant • Experts in district health policies -- "Digital Chief Medical Officer" • Help drive consent process <p>Telemed Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-demand care at home or at school (<5 min) • Services over text, call, or video • Visits in most languages • Easy-to-use, with on-call support 	

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	<p>Turn-Key for Schools and Health Plans Enrollment and Consent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts work with Customer Service Management team to launch program to schools, students, and families. • Parents/guardians participate in digital and paper enrollment process, consenting to their child receiving ongoing care. <p>Equipment and Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazel provides schools with iPads to conduct visits, medical equipment (cart, stand, scale, and more) • In states where allowed, Hazel stocks schools with OTC medications relevant to urgent/ acute needs <p>Care and Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students access virtual visits with Hazel providers at school or home. Students typically see the same providers. • Hazel returns relevant results data and analytics to schools and plans through integration and partnerships. <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going communication created and managed by Hazel. Schools and health plans are partners. • Modern, omni-channel communication is inclusive and timely. Digital, print, social, phone, app, and chat. <p>Results of Hazel's Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90%+ back to class • 2+ days of school saved on average • 25% chronic absent rate reduction <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99% visits reportedly met medical issue • 10% visits result in avoided ED trips • Dozens PCP referrals and prescriptions ordered per school 	

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	<p>Satisfaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 family Net Promoter Score • 4.92/5 school initiator visit rating • 3+ hours missed work avoided per visit <p><i>(Member Rosina Franco, MD, joined the meeting.)</i></p>	
State Budget Update	<p>Cherie Compartore, <i>Senior Director, Government Affairs</i>, gave the following update about the State Budget:</p> <p>The State General Fund Revenue projected to be from \$55-60+ billion which is greater than the January estimate. The Rainy Day Fund will get \$4 billion in supplemental deposits.</p> <p>She will focus on parts of the proposal that will affect L.A. Care's lines of business. The Governor proposed an \$18 billion relief package. Included in the package are \$400 payments to be distributed to everyone with a registered vehicle with a cap of two and \$3 billion in rental assistance. Also include \$1.4 billion program to assist people in getting their utilities forgiven, this is in addition to the one \$1 billion provided in last year's budget. There are \$930 million for payments for hospital nursing staff, \$250 per emergency health staff. Free public transportation totaling \$750 million, three months. Also, \$304 million to continue premium subsidies that are provided for Covered California. It is likely that this will be different, but it is the starting point. The Medi-Cal budget from this current year to next year, they are projecting .6% of caseload, bringing the caseload to 14.46 million. It will stabilize through this next year. The Doulas benefit was supposed to start this year; it's now being delayed to January 2023. One reason for that is they just started various stakeholder work group meetings to figure out what actual benefits and reimbursements would be. In January the budget estimated a \$450 per pregnancy reimbursement, between then and now the May Revision will pay Doulas the same benefit that they would pay Physicians and Midwives. They based it on if Doulas provide nine visits: one initial visit and eight follow up visits, plus labor and delivery, the total payment is \$1,100 for that pregnancy. There is a cap to receive nine visits for that prenatal period.</p> <p>Community Health Workers</p> <p>The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) still has a July 1, 2022 start date. She has reached out to DHCS twice and so far the official word is they are still on target, although they have not identified the training or certification requirement at this point. They have identified 25,000 new community health workers. L.A. Care will be ready by July 1, but</p>	

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	there may be many missing pieces from the state. Member Seidman said that L.A. Care already employs community health workers, but is waiting to hear about the guidance from the state about the various issues being discussed about training and specialization.	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.	

Respectfully submitted by:

Victor Rodriguez, *Board Specialist II, Board Services*

Malou Balones, *Board Specialist III, Board Services*

Linda Merkens, *Senior Manager, Board Services*

APPROVED BY:

Tara Ficek, *MPH, Chairperson* _____

Date Signed: _____

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