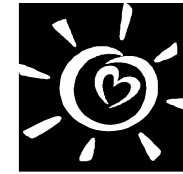


BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Children’s Health Consultant Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary – October 15, 2024

1055 W. Seventh Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN

Members

Tara Ficek, MPH, Chair
Sameer Amin, MD
Maria Chandler, MD, MBA
Rebecca Dudovitz, MD, MS
Rosina Franco, MD
Toni Frederick, PhD
Gwendolyn Ross Jordan*

Lynda Knox, PhD
Hilda Perez
Maryjane Puffer, BSN, MPH
Diana Ramos, MD*
Lina Shah, MD

*Absent **Present, but not quorum

Management

Alex Li, MD, Chief Health Equity Officer
Laura Gunn, Quality Improvement Project Manager II, Quality Improvement
Tamara Ataiwi, Quality Management Nurse Specialist RN II, Quality Improvement
Brandi Swann
David Kagan
Francisco Perez-Chavez
Felix Aguilar-Hernandez
Marina Acosta

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
CALL TO ORDER	Member Maria Chandler, MD, MB, attended under the Emergency Circumstances Clause. She advised that she is caring for an ill family member and noted that there is no one 18 years of age or older in the room with her. Tara Ficek, MPH, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M.	
APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA	The Agenda for today’s meeting was approved as submitted.	Approved Unanimously. 9 AYES (Amin, Chandler, Dudovitz, Ficek, Franco, Frederick, Knox, Puffer, and Shah)

APPROVED

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
PUBLIC COMMENT	<i>No public comment was submitted.</i>	
APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES	The August 20, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.	Approved Unanimously. 9 AYES
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT	Chairperson Ficek began her report by expressing gratitude and reflection, acknowledging that this was the final meeting of 2024. She thanked the committee members for their dedication, time, expertise, enthusiasm, and commitment, highlighting their efforts to enhance the understanding of children's healthcare in L.A. County. Over the past year, the committee focused on the latest initiatives from L.A. Care and its partners to improve the health of the county's youngest residents, aiming to transition from a traditional healthcare model to a more preventative and holistic system. She noted the need for foundational supports within the committee, mentioning the attention given to evolving the group's discussions. Looking ahead, She reminded the members about the 2025 meeting dates and announced plans for an in-person retreat to strengthen relationships. She noted the ongoing review of the committee's membership to ensure diverse perspectives and voices. Lastly, she expressed eagerness for the upcoming year, aiming to accelerate discussions and efforts towards transforming children's healthcare.	
MEMBERSHIP (CHC 100)	<p>Dr. Li presented the following motion for approval.</p> <p><u>Motion CHC 100.1124</u> To appoint the following candidates on the Children's Health Consultant Advisory Committee (CHCAC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Li, MD, Chief Health Equity Officer, as member for the Ex-Officio L.A. Care Chief Health Equity Officer Seat • Mona Patel, MD, as member for the Adolescent Health Seat • Smita Malhotra, MD, as member for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Seat • Ankit Shah, MD, as member for the L.A. County Department of Health Services (DHS)/ California Children's Services (CCS) Seat 	Approved Unanimously. 9 AYES
CHIEF HEALTH EQUITY OFFICER	<p>Alex Li, MD, <i>Chief Health Equity Officer</i>, gave the following report:</p> <p>He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief report. He announced that John</p>	

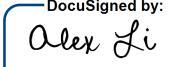
AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>Baackes, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for nearly ten years, had resigned, and the Board is in the process of selecting a new CEO, with an announcement expected by the end of the year. Dr. Li also mentioned a recent settlement agreement between L.A. Care, the Department of Healthcare Services, and the Department of Managed Healthcare, involving a \$27 million financial penalty and a \$28 million investment in community benefits, focusing on health equity and quality improvement. He introduced Mona Patel, MD, as a new member of the committee and highlighted their collaboration on the L.A. County Children's Health Disparities Roundtable, which resulted in four policy briefs. These briefs will be released soon, coordinated with the election cycle to maximize impact. The team plans to reconvene roundtable participants to work more cohesively in advocating for children's health.</p> <p>Dr. Patel said she is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on the roundtable discussions. She noted the focus on four key areas: school resilience and mental health, child welfare groupings, transitions from pediatric to adult care for complex populations, and the evolution of vaccine hesitancy, particularly in the post-pandemic context. Dr. Patel noted the foundational nature of this work and the importance of continuing to address child health disparities in L.A. County through collective efforts. Dr. Li responded and said that he appreciated the additional context and mentioned the possibility of bringing different policies to the committee for discussion, including inviting roundtable participants for further dialogue. He highlighted the collaborative effort among payers, providers, public and private sectors, and family voices as a significant community synchronization opportunity. Dr. Li expressed eagerness to present findings and provide LA Care with guidance on future steps, concluding her report on that note.</p>	
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT	<p>Sameer Amin, MD, <i>Chief Medical Officer</i>, gave a Chief Medical Officer update.</p> <p>Dr. Amin provided an update on the strategic planning efforts for the Health Services division in 2025. He began by discussing the two-day strategy summit held from October 7-8, where senior leadership across all health services areas collaborated to create a "living strategy guide." This guide is designed to align health services with enterprise goals and foster cross-departmental integration. Dr. Amin highlighted several core priorities, including streamlining authorizations and care coordination, enhancing seamless referrals for new policy-driven programs, and optimizing Population Health Management (PHM) by embedding key drivers such as data analytics, technology, and incentive contracting into initiatives. He noted the importance of cross-divisional collaboration, Dr. Amin underscored</p>	

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>the need to work closely with Finance, Operations, Compliance, and IT to ensure operational stability and alignment with the overall strategic vision. He noted that the division is at an inflection point, moving beyond regulatory and compliance needs to focus on innovation and improving the member experience. The goal is to create a coordinated healthcare ecosystem where members can seamlessly access comprehensive services without navigating multiple stops. Dr. Amin also stressed the importance of aligning health services initiatives with providers to ensure seamless care delivery, improving practice transformation for value-based care, and maintaining strong provider engagement. He acknowledged progress in areas like CCS and the connection between Enhanced Care Management and CS services, indicating a solid foundation for future efforts. Dr. Amin expressed optimism about the strategic document's completion and readiness to present it in January, signaling a strong foundation for the division's future direction.</p>	
<p>SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS AND ABSTENTIONS</p>	<p>Rebeca Dudovitz, MD, <i>Committee Member, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA</i>, gave a report about School-Based Clinics and abstentions (<i>a copy of the report can be obtained from Board Services</i>).</p> <p>The presentation titled "Examining School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) as Vehicles for Health Equity Among Chronically Absent Students" focuses on the role of SBHCs in improving health outcomes and academic performance for students with chronic absenteeism in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The study aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Merge health and academic data to understand patterns of absenteeism and associated health conditions. 2. Assess healthcare usage among different absenteeism classes to identify disparities. 3. Evaluate if SBHC utilization leads to better healthcare and academic outcomes. 4. Design interventions to support health equity for chronically absent students through stakeholder engagement. <p>The research leverages data from LAUSD, L.A. Care, and Kaiser Permanente, linked securely via the Data Exchange system. The findings aim to enhance health system models, improve health equity, and better the academic outcomes for economically disadvantaged students, especially those insured under Medi-Cal.</p>	
<p>CHILD HEALTH & DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) PROGRAM</p>	<p>Rosina Franco, MD, <i>Committee Member, Senior Physician, Student Medical Services, Office of the Chief Medical Director, Los Angeles Unified School District</i>, Felix Aguilar-Henriquez, MD, <i>Medical Director, Quality, Quality Improvement</i>, gave the following (<i>a copy of the presentation can be obtained from Board Services</i>).</p>	

AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>The presentation focuses on the transition of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program to Managed Care Plans, which began on July 1, 2024. This transition aims to enhance the delivery of services for children and youth under 21, aligning with the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. The key points include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providers must follow the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Periodicity Schedule, and L.A. Care requires all network providers to adhere to this schedule. 2. Dental screenings and oral health assessments are mandatory for members under 21, including as part of the Initial Health Assessment (IHA). 3. L.A. Care offers comprehensive training for both internal teams and external providers, with on-demand modules and instructor-led sessions available through L.A. Care University. 4. The CHCAC Committee members posed questions about the challenges and future of the CHDP training curriculum and materials, as well as coordination for case management of members with lead poisoning. <p>The presentation highlights efforts to streamline and improve healthcare for young beneficiaries while ensuring that providers are adequately trained to meet these new requirements.</p>	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 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:
Alex Li, MD, *Chief Health Equity Officer*

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Date Signed: _____ 1/29/2025 | 12:54 PM PST