

# Maternal Child Adolescent Health Advisory Board Minutes

March 5, 2026

Members	
Present	Absent
Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea	Melissa Apuya*
Catherine Barrisford	Alexandra Rios**
Allison Murphy	Kathy Reynolds*
Flora Henningsen	Dr. Michael Perry
Dr. Milana PeBenito	
Dr. Jeff Miller	
Erin Reed	
Gina Cuclis	
Taylor Anderson-Stevenson	
Stephanie Montez	

\*Excused absence

\*\*Pending Approval by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

**Staff Present** Janette Allee, Administrative Aide, Brittany Lobo, MCAH Director

**Guests** Dr. Lisa Ward, MD, MPH, MS, FAAFP, Regional Medical Director-Santa Rosa, Health Services Department, Partnership HealthPlan of California, Leigha Andrews, MBA, Regional Director, Administration Department, Partnership HealthPlan of California, and Martin Espinoza, reporter from the Press Democrat.

**Call to Order** Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes** Erin Reed motioned to approve the February minutes Flora Henningsen seconded the motion, and the February minutes were approved.

**Partnership Health Plan** Dr. Ward shared a slides presentation titled MediCal/Medicaid Program Changes to the MCAH AB membership. The topics covered were new changes coming to Medi-Cal members, including asset limits, an enrollment freeze for undocumented members 19 years of age and up, a reduction in dental coverage, monthly premiums, and rate changes. For the Medicaid program some changes coming are provider taxes, eligibility and access to care, prohibited entities and immigrant eligibility. Dr. Ward shared the implementation timeline for each phase of state and federal changes, some dates had already passed, and some have not yet taken place. Many of these policies affect those with unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS). Next, she covered how Medi-Cal will start considering assets in the application process. The limit is \$130,000 for one person, each additional person adds 65,000 to the asset limit. Some assets are excluded like the home you live in, and one vehicle. Assets include bank accounts, cash, and any additional homes and vehicles. Income eligibility is unchanged at 138% of federal poverty level, \$44,000 for a family of 4. On January 1, 2026, Medi-Cal has froze new enrollments for adults who are undocumented or do not have a satisfactory immigration status AKA UIS. Those who are already enrolled will stay enrolled as long as they complete annual renewals. Children and pregnant people can enroll in full scope Medi-Cal, no matter their immigration status.

Starting July 1, 2026, dental benefits will no longer be provided to adult Medi-Cal members with UIS. Emergency dental care such as treatment for severe pain, infection and tooth extractions will still be covered and pregnant individuals with UIS will continue to receive full dental benefits during pregnancy and up to one year postpartum. Beginning January 2027 work requirements start and more frequent eligibility redeterminations and on July 1, 2027, some adult Medi-Cal members with UIS, Californians aged 19-59 who are not pregnant, will need to pay \$30 per month to keep full scope Medi-Cal. If these members do not pay the premium, their coverage will be reduced to emergency and pregnancy related services. In January 2028 some state payment reductions and provider tax reductions will begin and in October of that year Medicaid cost sharing will start.

The overall impact on Californians is that up to 3.4 million Medi-Cal members may lose coverage with the new work requirements and six-month eligibility checks. 300,000 Partnership members may be impacted, \$30 billion in federal funding is at risk annually, and this will create a major disruption in the Med-Cal financing structure for the healthcare safety net.

In addition, all Medicaid reimbursements for all services provided by Planned Parenthood will be eliminated, as of September 2025 Partnership can no longer contract for primary care services. Federal funding for rural health care was also cut drastically. Dr. Ward covered some of the

work requirements and exemptions and then spoke about how the change in October of this year will end full scope Medi-Cal for 200,000 refugees, asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking, and more as they will shift from satisfactory to unsatisfactory status across California. The ACA Medicaid expansion cost sharing will apply to adults with incomes about 100% of the federal poverty level (\$15,560) per year for adults 19-64. States will decide that amount not to exceed \$35 per service or 5% of family income. Co-pays apply to all services except PCPs, MH, ER, all FQHCs and rural health clinic services.

Dr. Miller asked about the new nutrition guidelines and Janette added that Dr. Reynolds suggested the same topic for an upcoming agenda item, Brittany said she will contact Aileen Rodriguez at WIC to see if she can come speak before the membership at an upcoming meeting.

**State Legislation** Melissa Apuya was not present, but Janette noted that a new Senate Bill SB 707 has raised a possible potential allowance that certain Brown Act bodies may be allowed to teleconference again if passed.

**Correspondence** None received.

**Staff Report** Was handed out and reviewed.

**Announcements** Gina Cuclis stated that with the population of students dwindling and major employers relying on recruiting people with families this decline is expected to continue.

**Meeting Adjourned** The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

<b>Passed Motions</b>			
The February minutes were approved.			
<b>Handouts</b>			
Staff Report			
<b>Action Items</b>			
<b>2025 Meeting Dates</b>			
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	120 Stony Point Road, Suite 155
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	1179 N. McDowell Blvd, Petaluma
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	12:30-2:00 pm	463 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa
<b>MCAH AB Website</b>			
<a href="https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health-advisory-board">https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health/maternal-child-and-adolescent-health-advisory-board</a>			