



PHC's Sonja Bjork Named to Commission that Advises Congress on Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Issues

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Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) congratulates Chief Operating Officer Sonja Bjork for her appointment to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), which advises Congress, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the states on issues affecting Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Sonja was appointed after an extensive nomination process, which included numerous letters of support.

"She is a steadfast advocate for improving health access in rural areas via telehealth and workforce development," said PHC CEO Liz Gibboney.

"Sonja sees the 'bigger picture' of Medicaid," said Margaret A. Murray, CEO of the Association for Community Affiliated Plans.

"Sonja is a very caring person. I will never forget her help during a time that was so stressful," said Darnice Richmond, a member of PHC's Consumer Advisory Committee.

Over the years, Sonja honed her skills across a variety of worthwhile activities contributing to the public good. Among them being her work helping the socioeconomically disadvantaged, and getting to know the ins and out of their health care. She received her Juris Doctorate from UC Berkeley to become a child welfare attorney, and joined Partnership as a grievance coordinator nearly 20 years ago.

One of her biggest accomplishments was helping countless low-income children in Solano County get access to health care they were in dire need of. Sonja has also served on the board of numerous groups dedicated to helping women and children, including being named Child Abuse Prevention Council Practitioner of the Year in 2007.

Sonja brings a practical perspective to her duties as commissioner with her history in policy and operations as chief operating officer at PHC. As commissioner, Sonja will ensure that at the highest levels of health care policy discussion, vulnerable populations will have an experienced advocate fighting for them. Her background in law and health care operations will put a focus on access to care without getting tripped up in red tape.

Partnership HealthPlan of California is honored to have Sonja represent our organization, our members, and others in need as a MACPAC commissioner.

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