PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA (PARTNERSHIP) MEETING MINUTES

PARTNERSHIP

HEALTHPLAN

of CALIFORNIA

A Public Agency

Committee: Physician Advisory Committee
Date / Time: May 14, 2025 - 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Voting members are required to attend in-person at one of Partnership HealthPlan's posted locations.

Members Present:	Steven Gwiazdowski, MD (FF) Angela Brennan, DO (FF) Teresa Shinder, DO (FF) Brent Pottenger, MD (FF) Michele Herman, MD (FF)	Chris Myers, MD (E) Candy Stockton, MD (E) Malia Honda, MD (E) Karina Gookin, MD (AU)	John McDermott, FNP (C) Chester Austin, MD (C Vanessa Walker, DO (SH)	FF Fairfield SR Santa Rosa E Eureka R Redding C Chico AU Auburn	MCC Marin Community Clinics OMM Office of Dr. Matheson SH Sutter Health
Members Excused:	Mustaffa Ammar, MD Matthew Zavod, MD	Christine Lasich, MD Karen Sprague, MSN, CFNP	Mills Matheson, MD Darrick Nelson, MD	Derice Seid, MD	

Members

Danielle Oryn, DO

Absent: Visitor:

John Murphy, MD, Chief Medical Officer, LaClinica

Zoe Cappe, MD, Medical Director for Solano County, LaClinica

Partnership Staff:

Sonja Bjork, Chief Executive Officer Jennifer Lopez, Chief Financial Officer Wendi Davis, Chief Operating Officer Leigha Andrews, Regional Director Mary Kerlin, Sr. Dir., Prov. Relations (PR) Lisa O'Connell, Director of Enhanced Health Services

Doreen Crume, RN, N. Mgr. Care Coord. Stephanie Nakatani, Supervisor, Provider Relations Representatives

Vicky Klakken, Dir., North Region Brigid Gast, RN, Dir. of CC Robert Moore, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Katherine Barresi, RN, Chief Health Services Officer Colleen Townsend, MD, Region Medical Director Mark Netherda, MD, Medical Director for Quality Jeffrey DeVido, MD, Behavioral Health Clinical Dir. Stan Leung, Pharm.D., Director, Pharmacy Services Vacant, RN, Assoc. Dir. UM Strategies

Sue Quichocho, Mgr., Quality Measurement Amy McCune, Manager of QI Programs

Bradley Cox, MD, Northeast Region Medical Director James Cotter, MD, Associate Medical Director Jeffrey Ribordy, MD, Region Medical Director
R. Doug Matthews, MD, Region Medical Director
Marshall Kubota, MD, Region Medical Director
Teresa Frankovich, MD, Associate Medical Director
Nancy Steffen, Dir., Quality & Perf. Improvement
Heather Esget, RN, Director, Utilization Mgmt. (UM)
Kevin Jarret-Lee, RN, Assoc. Dir. of UM
Kristine Gual, Director, Quality Measurement
Isaac Brown, Director, Quality Management
Mohamed Jalloh, Pharm.D., Director, Health Equity
Megan Shelton, Project Manager, Quality Improvement
DeLorean Ruffin, DrPH, Director, Population Health
David Lavine, Assoc. Dir. of Workforce Development

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION	DATE RESOLVED
Public Comments	PAC Chairperson asked for any public comments. None presented.	N/A	N/A
Quorum	12/20 – PAC	Committee quorum requirements met (12).	05/14/25

AGENDA	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS				
ITEM	For information only, no formal action required.				
I.A. Chief	Partnership's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided the following Partnership activities.				
Executive					
Officer Report	Monitoring Changes to Medicaid				
	 Partnership has been teaming up with many different stakeholders to advocate for the safety net and preservation of Medicaid. 				
	There are several proposals, but four are likely to come to fruition.				
	1. Freeze on Provider Taxes				
	• In 2024, California voted to increase the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax through <u>Proposition 35</u> , which would ensure dollars				
	California can bring in from the federal government through provider taxes get used to support the safety through increased provider				
	rates.				
	The federal government is aiming to freeze rates and limit increases for each state.				
	2. Work Requirements				
	 Federal requirement that every single state implement work requirements for adults who don't have children and who are not disabled or senior citizens. 				
	• There are no details on implementation, but other states where it has been attempted have seen reductions in enrollment through loss of eligibility.				
	 Medicaid beneficiaries would have a larger administrative burden to prove they are either working, enrolled in school to pursue a 				
	degree or certification, or volunteering by submitting proof to an eligibility worker.				
	 Many Medicaid beneficiaries do work, either employed part-time or where health coverage is not provided. 				
	3. Eligibility Checks				
	 Federal government is recommending income and asset verifications every six months rather than annually. 				
	4. Reduced federal match rates would be likely for states providing Medicaid coverage to those who have uncertain immigration status.				
	• California would potentially see a match rate of 90% reduced to 80% resulting in the loss of millions of dollars of funding.				
	• Governor Newsom will announce the revised May budget at 10:30 a.m. on May 14, 20256 (the day of the PAC meeting)				
	 Budget deficits and the Los Angeles fire recovery expenses and efforts will force tough budget decisions. 				
	Dual Special Needs Program (D-SNP)				
	 Partnership Advantage will be implemented in eight counties in January 2026 for members who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. Open enrollment begins October 2025 with initial estimates of enrollees to be between 5,000 and 6,000. 				
	 Program regulations will be monitored by Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), and the Department of Health Care Service (DHCS). 				
	 The Partnership Advantage application and Model of Care were approved and received a score of 100%. 				
	 Partnership is preparing the bid to the federal government and working with actuaries to explain financial feasibility. 				
	 Partnership continues to work on contracting with providers to expand the network coverage. 				
	California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM)				
	Enhanced case management (ECM) remains a high priority along with community supports.				
	Several grants have been issued to help agencies expand CalAIM services or start new ones. Partnership has received 25 proposals and expects to				
	receive more before the deadline.				
	Question				
	CalAIM was funded through federal grants which are expected to end in 2026. Has there been any communication from the state about continuing beyond				
	2026?				
	CalAIM was implemented with a waiver to allow every state to apply to make changes to its Medicaid program. CMS recently sent a letter to notify				
	plans anything far removed from health services will likely not be renewed. The state has said very clearly their next waiver application will still				
	include all CalAIM services. There is no indication anything will be retroactively unapproved. California has long relied on waivers for programs and				
	has a precedent for the principle of reliance to prevail.				

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS For information only, no formal action required.
I.B. Chief	Partnership's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) presented a brief update on Health Services.
Medical Officer	Tarthership 5 Chief Wedicar Officer (CMO) presented a office aparate on freath Services.
Health Services	• Legislative Update
Report	Governor Newsom <u>proposed changes</u> to Medicaid for undocumented workers in efforts to save an estimated \$5 billion.
	Beginning January 2026, new enrollees aged 19 years or older would no longer be accepted if they lack permanent legal status
	• Those already enrolled will not lose Medi-Cal coverage, and children are still eligible, but adults may face a \$100 per month premium starting in 2027.
	• Partnership Activities
	Nitrous Oxide webinar will be hosted by Partnership's Clinical Director of Behavioral Health on Friday, June 6, 2025, at noon, highlighting
	• Potential overuse
	• Vitamin B12 deficiency
	 Potential paralysis and neurological deficits Shasta County saw several cases, initially undiagnosed, but later linked to sales of nitrous oxide containers sold at vaping shops.
	National Coalition for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Health Equity Accreditation submission will take place in June 2025. Subsequent meetings will take
	 place, but Partnership anticipates receiving the Health Equity accreditation later this year. Primary Care Physician (PCP) Quality Incentive Program (QIP) payments will be going out the second week of June; notification letters will be sent
	mid-May.
	Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) project is in its final stages for 2024 data measurement. Results will be presented in
	August or September 2025.
	 Regional Medical Director Forums were held in six locations throughout Partnership's network. The detailed notes are available at Partnership's Office of the CMO site.
	Partnership's Medical Director for Medicare Services has been heading the large effort to update relevant Partnership policies for implementation of D-SNP, Partnership Advantage, going live in January 2026.
I.C.1. Status	Partnership's Regional Medical Director for Napa, Solano, and Yolo Counties presented a brief update on activities.
Update,	• Communicare+Ole is opening a new clinic in Fairfield, CA on May 15, 2025, which will expand primary care access.
Regional Medical	• Prenatal care is fluctuating in Solano County. Pregnant members are given a warm handoff to clinics capable of absorbing first-trimester visits to ensure members are seen timely.
	• Solano County and Yolo County are experiencing reduced vision screening access. In Yolo County, Partnership is partnering with Public Health Officers
	and local community health centers to understand how Partnership can impact and improve access, specifically for children who are having trouble getting follow up exams after initial screenings and showing a need for corrective lenses.
	The Southeast Regional Quality meeting will be held in late May.
	Two Partnership network physicians were awarded Physician of the Year, Dr. Tom Suard of Napa, and Dr. Emily A. Fisher of Solano County by the Napa Solano Medical Society.
I.C.2. Status	Partnership's Regional Medical Director for Marin and Sonoma Counties presented a brief update on activities.
Update,	 Continuing to build relationships through meetings with key state and local stakeholders.
Regional	Efforts are ongoing with clinics to improve cervical cancer screenings with vaginal self-swabs.
Medical	Promoting academic detailing with Partnership's Director of Pharmacy Operations. Two of nine clinics have completed sessions.
	Working on improving lead-screening rates by rolling out lead-testing machines at point-of-care sites.
	• Collaborating with Aliados Health to develop an advanced practice clinician training program to pool resources from health centers across the region for
	support of a pilot with UC Davis for Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) fellowships to bring APCs to local health centers for procedural care, mentoring,
	 didactic lectures, new grad set up, and improvement of retention and support. Brenda Ship has been appointed CEO at Marin Community Clinics. Sarah Brewer has been appointed CEO of Sonoma Valley Community Health Clinic.
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS For information only, no formal action required.
I.C.3. Status Update, Regional Medical	Partnership's Regional Medical Director for Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties presented a brief update on activities. Governor Newsom announced first round of funding from Prop 1 for mental health facilities and treatment centers in the amount of \$3.3 billion across California, of which Partnership's region is to receive roughly \$400 million. Humboldt County was granted \$45 million for new inpatient mental health facility. Yurok Tribe was awarding \$26 million to build a health and wellness center in Weitchpec, CA. The center will be 24,000 sqft with 53 beds to care for the physical, mental, and social health needs of three tribal communities treating infants through elders. Lake County Behavioral Health received nearly \$8 million for mental health clinic expansion. Consolidated Tribal Health Clinic received \$9 million for behavioral health expansion. United Indian Health Service (UIHS) received \$6 million to open a child and family wellness center. K'ima:w received \$6 million for behavioral health wellness support. Two Feathers Native American Family Services in McKinleyville, CA received \$8 million for their mental health facility. United Indian Health Service is breaking ground on new youth housing project for homeless and foster youth with 39 units.
I.C.4. Status Update, Regional Medical	 Partnership's Regional Director for Glenn, Butte, Sutter, and Colusa Counties presented a brief update on activities. Counties also received Prop 1 funding Butte County Behavioral Health received \$7.7 million for a 40-bed mental health rehabilitation center to be built at the former Chico Community Hospital complex. Colusa Indian Health received \$21 million for a mental wellness center. Butte County Public Health will open a new clinic in Chico on May 27, 2025. Healthy Rural California has appointed Michelle Powers to serve as interim CEO. North Valley Medical Society and Butte Glenn Medical Society has a new Executive director: Bridget McBride.
I.C.5. Status Update, Regional Medical	Partnership's Regional Director for Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Trinity, and Tehama Counties presented a brief update on activities. • Completed leadership visits with Surprise Valley, Mountain Valley, and Warner Mountain Tribal Health. • A new endocrinologist has moved to Redding and will see patients starting in June. • Empire Recovery Center in Redding will continue inpatient treatment for drug and alcohol rehab but has closed the outpatient clinic. • Three area behavioral health clinics were awarded Prop 1 funding.
Update, Regional Medical	 Partnership's Regional Director for Plumas, Sierra, Nevada & Placer presented a brief update on activities. Met with Public Health Department for California Health Improvement Project (CHIP) committee meeting to discuss early goals for nutritional food access, recreation, and community communication. The provider network is expanding with the addition of cardiologists and a dermatologist in the area. The Sierra Nevada Wilderness Conference takes place September 5 through 7 and will be discussing several topics of interest including field management of trauma, ski and snowboards field injury management, travel medicine, heat related illnesses, and wilderness medicine therapy.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS For information only, no formal action required.				
II.A Office	LaClinica Office Practice Update with Chief Medical Officer, Dr. John Murphy, and Medical Director for Solano County, Dr. Zoe Cappe.				
Practice Update, LaClinica	Dr. John Muprhy introduced the presentation with contextual framing: La Clinica is navigating a pivotal moment within the safety-net system. He outlined three major areas of focus for the discussion:				
	Recruitment and Retention in Solano County Impact of Federal Changes Contingency Planning for operational and financial resilience				
	The intention was to address these domains from both strategic and practical viewpoints relevant to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and broader healthcare settings.				
	Dr. Murphy thanked Partnership HealthPlan for its support in provider workforce stability, emphasizing that La Clinica works with multiple managed Medicaid plans, but Partnership is notably the most generous in recruitment support, with tools such as:				
	- Recruitment incentives - Retention pilot initiatives - Recruitment agency access				
	These efforts have helped prevent provider attrition to competitors and bolstered membership growth in Solano County, particularly at the North Vallejo site.				
	The workforce at La Clinica is predominantly composed of Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs): Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Physician Assistants (PAs), and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs).				
	 Key challenges and context include: Most APCs are new graduates or lack recent primary care experience. Many come from Touro University, with others from Chamberlain, Sonoma State, and UCSF. A shift toward doctoral-level NP training has increased student debt, making safety-net employment less appealing. Retention is fragile, especially during the first two years, partly because many APCs work multiple jobs simultaneously. 				
	Dr. Murphy noted that while outcomes between APCs and MD/DOs converge over time, it takes several years to reach equivalent chronic condition management outcomes.				
	Recruitment and Retention				
	 The urgent need to rethink onboarding, which currently places too much strain on site medical directors, was emphasized. Key developments: Exploring centralized onboarding resources to support new hires. Building internal residency and fellowship opportunities, though concerns remain over lower residency salaries. La Clinica applied for a CMSP workforce grant to subsidize training costs. Interest in leveraging Encore Physicians—retired MDs (often from Kaiser) who wish to continue working in low-pressure, flexible roles—both for clinical service and possibly training newer staff. 				

AGENDA	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS				
ITEM	For information only, no formal action required.				
II.A Office	Recruitment and Retention – MD/DO Focus				
Practice					
Update,	While MD/DO recruitment remains challenging due to uncompetitive salaries, several recruitment levers were identified:				
LaClinica,	Prenatal care and delivery opportunities make some roles more attractive. La Clinica offers these through its Great Beginnings outpatient prenatal				
Continued	program.				
	• La Clinica hosts residency rotations, though mandatory ones yield few hires. Elective rotations may be more promising due to self-selection.				
	 Like APCs, many MDs/DOs also moonlight for income or scope enhancement. There's increasing awareness of loan repayment and forgiveness programs, which could influence MD recruitment and retention trajectories. 				
	There's increasing awareness of loan repayment and forgiveness programs, which could influence with rectulinent and recention trajectories.				
	Recruitment and Retention – Encore Case Study				
	Encore Physicians stand out as a bright spot:				
	These experienced MDs typically avoid panel management, preferring urgent care or coverage roles.				
	• At the Georgia Street site, nine applicants competed for three APC positions. Six declined due to low salary, but three were hired—a success tempered				
	by the challenge of sustaining them beyond year two.				
	There's optimism around ambient AI charting as a long-term retention solution, though its effectiveness depends on having a standardized, linear clinical workflow.				
	Impacts of Federal Changes to Date				
	Recent federal policy shifts are fueling fear and instability in vulnerable patient populations:				
	Immigrants and transgender patients are reluctant to engage with Medi-Cal.				
	• Outreach is harder as patients avoid contact or fear being dropped from benefits ("last-in, first-out").				
	 Membership has declined with redetermination cycles, even as self-pay numbers rise, straining La Clinica's budget. 				
	Title X funding is now frozen. La Clinica had preemptively withdrawn during the Trump gag rule but had hoped for restoration.				
	• Vaccination-focused grants have also been cut.				
	 330 grants are under renewed scrutiny—particularly clauses requiring compliance with executive orders, prompting legal review. There is concern over staff and leadership burnout given the complex regulatory climate. 				
	There is concern over start and leadership outflout given the complex regulatory chinate.				
	Response to Federal Changes				
	Dr. Murphy encouraged the team not to fall into "learned helplessness." Instead, he outlined a mission-protective strategy that balances compliance with both				
	state and federal mandates:				
	• For gender-affirming care, California's guidance (e.g., via AG Rob Bonta) may conflict with federal orders—but providers are expected to follow				
	California's non-discrimination rules.				
	Strategic focus areas where Medicaid support is likely to persist: Pediatrics				
	Prenatal care				
	Medicare for seniors				
	Call to collaborate with MCPs like Partnership HealthPlan to grow membership before further eligibility restrictions take effect.				
	 Enhanced training and information-sharing for staff on topics like ICE procedures, legal warrants, and patient protections. 				
	Emphasis on trusted relationships with elected officials and external partnerships to keep Medi-Cal patients out of high-cost emergency settings.				

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ITEM II.A Office Practice Update, LaClinica, Continued					
AGENDA ITEM	Attorney General under President Obama stated, "but not without a lot of hard work." • This work demands persistence, courage, and long-term dedication. He invited input from colleagues and acknowledged the crucial role of community health workers in assisting patients through redetermination. **BATE PROVAL** **BATE PROVAL* **BA				
III.A.	April 2025 PAC minutes were presented for approval.	MOTION: Dr. Pottenger moved to approve Agenda III.A as presented, seconded by, seconded by Dr. Brennan. ACTION SUMMARY: [12] yes, [0] no, [0] abstentions.	05/14/25 Motion carried.		
III.B.1 III.B.2 III.B.3 III.B.5 III.B.6	 Consent Calendar Review Quality / Utilization Advisory Committee (QUAC) Activities Report with Attachments – April 2025 Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines for Action Policy Summary April 2025 Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Summary & Approved Criteria, April 10, 2025 Credentials Committee Meeting Minutes and Credentialed List, March 12, 2025 Pediatric Quality Committee Minutes, November 13, 2024 Minutes, February 4, 2025 	MOTION: Dr. Brennan moved to approve Agenda III.B.1, III.B.2, III.B.3, III.B.5 and III.B.6, as presented, seconded by Dr. Pottenger. ACTION SUMMARY: [12] yes, [0] no, [0] abstentions.	05/14/25 Motion carried.		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS For information only, no formal action required.						
III.C Physician	Physician Advisory Committee (PAC) Membership						
Advisory Committee	The PAC Chairperson shared intent and NorthBay Health Primary Care				Angela Brei	nnan, a long-time voti	ng member
Membership	Any other interested candidates wer	re asked to contact Partnership's Ch	nief Medic	al Officer directly.			
IV. A Old Business	None						
AGENDA ITEM		DISCU	SSION / C	ONCLUSIONS			
V.A	County Level Profile – Shasta Con	unty provided as example for refere	nce only				
Partnership County Level Profile Review	Table o	of Contents (1/2)		Table	of Conter	nts (2/2)	
	County Data Introduction	4 Obstetrics / Maternity Data	24	County Disparities Data (Continued)	Supplen	nentary Data	61
	Membership / County Overview Partnership's Regional Structure	5 <u>County Maternity Data and Resources</u> 6 <u>Maternity Data by Provider</u>	25 26	County Diabetes Mellitus Poor Control Disparities County Controlled Blood Pressure Disparities		ty Chronic Conditions Prevalence	62 63
	County Member Enrollment Trend	7 Member Deliveries	27 28	Child Welfare-Involved Youth Data	46 Fluori	ty Fluoride Varnish Treatment Demographics ide Varnish Trend by County	64
	Current County Enrollment County Member Age Groups and Gender	Substance Use Disorder Data County Substance Use Disorder Claims	28	Child Welfare Demographics		ty Fluoride Varnish Treatment by PCP	65
		10 County Demographics of Members Diagnosed with SUD 11 County Top Reasons Members with SUD Used Health Service	30	County Child Welfare Utilization Child Welfare ECM Services Utilization		xposure Prophylaxis for HIV ix: HEDIS Information	66 67
		11 County Top Reasons Members with SUD Used Health Service 12 County Homeless with SUD	32	Child Welfare Community Support Services		S HPA Rate Performance by County	68-71
		13 County Homeless and SUD Utilization	33	Surveys and Screening Data	50	S HPA Measure Set Descriptions	72-80
		14 County Behavioral Health Services Used by Patients with SUD 15 County Tobacco Screening and Referral by Demographics	34 35	Workforce Point in Time Survey CAHPS Survey Results: Flu and Smoking Cessation		S Performance by Partnership County S Measurement Set Descriptions	81-84 85-87
	County Hospital Use Rates: Acute Hospital Admissions and ALOS	16 Tobacco Screening and Referral by Region and County	36	CAHPS Survey Results: Advanced Directives	54 Conta		88
		17 County Tobacco Screening and Referral by PCP 18 County Disparities Data	37 38	County Lead Screening Data	55 56		
	Mental Health Utilization by Region	19 <u>County Top Disparities Below MPL</u>	39	<u>Transportation Services Data</u> <u>County NMT and NEMT Transportation Services: KPIs</u>	57		
		20 County Breast Cancer Screening Disparities 21 County Colorectal Cancer Screening Disparities	40 41	County NMT and NEMT Transportation Services: Trip Details	58		
	ACEs Screening Rates	22 County Cervical Cancer Screening Disparities	42	County NMT and NEMT Transportation Services: Demographics	59		
	County ACEs Screenings and Member Assignments	23 <u>County Well-Care Visit Disparities</u>	43	NMT and NEMT Transportation Services Utilization	60		
	Partnership's CMO emphasized the HealthPlan. The intent is to provide lies with the Population Health Mar The audience is advised to review p	e counties with curated data to assis nagement team. This 2025 version is	t with their	Community Health Assessment	s. The respo	onsibility for creating	these profiles
	Partnership's CMO clarified that wl County Public Health Officers. Cou						
	requests pertain to data already avail	ilable through other local or state sy	stems, suc	ch as County Health Rankings, H	ealth Status	Profiles, and the Hea	lthy Places
	Index. The presenter acknowledges	that this dataset is not exhaustive;	rather, it of	ffers a focused view using Partne	rship Healtl	nPlan's internal data.	
	Moreover, important caveats are dis	scussed: the presence of missing da	ta, delavs i	n claims reporting (claims lag).	and inconsis	tent data coding. The	refore, the
	profile should not be interpreted as						
						-	
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VI.						
Adjournment						
PAC adjourned at 9:03 a.m.	Next PA	Next PAC on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 7:30 a.m.				
For Signature On	nutes were APPROVED AS PRESENTED on	06/11/2025 Date	Steve Gwiazdowski, M.D., Committee Chairperson			
The foregoing min	nutes were APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION on	Date	Steve Gwiazdowski, M.D, Committee Chairperson			