

# Affordable Care Act Readiness Project Thursday, July 25, 2013 Meeting Summary

#### Attendees:

Representatives from Member Agencies: April Brewer, Dignity Health; Brian Mimura, The California Endowment; Bud Kaicher, Central Valley Regional Health Organizer; Candice Adam-Medefind, Healthy House; Christy Casey, Livingston Medical Group; Christine Bobbitt, Merced County Human Services Agency; Claudia Corchado, United Way of Merced County; Crissy Gallardo, Merced Organizing Project; Don Ramsey, Community Member; Gerarrd Herrera, Network for a Healthy California; Griselda Villa and Marc Smith, Golden Valley Health Centers; Isai Palma, Building Healthy Communities; Jane MacLean, Dr. Timothy Livermore Merced County Department of Public Health; Jennifer Mockus, Central California Alliance for Health; Lisa Wegley, Mercy Foundation; Linda Hoile, Great Valley Center; Lori Norman, Merced County Department of Child Support Services; Marybeth Affleck-Nacey, A&N Consulting for Dignity Health; Stacie Bradford, MPA Student; Stephanie Dietz, Merced County Executive Office.

Consultants and Project Staff: Bobbie Wunsch, Pacific Health Consulting Group; Joel Diringer, Diringer and Associates; Cindy Valencia, Karl Stahlhut, Kathleen Grassi, and Sarah Baker, Merced County Department of Public Health.

Agenda Items	Discussion Summary	Resources / Action Items
Welcome and Introductions	Joel Diringer facilitated introductions and asked attendees to share any updates related to the ACA:	
	Claudia Corchado - just returned from 2 ½ days of Covered California outreach and education training;	
Joel Diringer Diringer and Associates	Griselda Villa - Golden Valley Health Centers is hosting a forum for the public on the ACA on August 29 <sup>th</sup> .	
Kathleen Grassi, Merced County Public Health Department	Kathleen Grassi provided an overview the ACA Readiness Project:	
	The California Endowment, through the Building Healthy Communities, funded the Merced County Public Health Department to implement the ACA Readiness Project which aims to identify opportunities and challenges to ACA implementation in Merced County.	
	The Merced County Health Care Consortium was already in existence and its role was evolving at the time this grant became available. The Consortium at their January 2013 meeting adopted the ACA Readiness Project as a primary focus for the next year. Original members realized that the Consortium's membership would need to expand, at least through this project period, to involve more representatives working to expand healthcare coverage in 2014.	
	The project will look at:1) Outreach and Enrollment activities, the main driver to get people enrolled in health care coverage; 2) Provider Capacity, to meet the needs of an expanded insured population; 3) Mental Health Parity, how parity will be achieved and what resources will be needed; 4) Prevention, how to leverage ACA to increase access to prevention services (smoking cessation, nutrition education, diabetes management, etc.) to help individuals to manage or prevent chronic health conditions.	
	<ul> <li>In addition, the Public Health Department also received funding from the Blue Shield of California Foundation to look at similar issues specifically impacting the medically indigent population, adults 19-64 years of age, who do not qualify for Medi-Cal or other insurance programs and who have an immediate medical need.</li> </ul>	







• The Department serves this population through the Medical Assistance Program (MAP); as of January 2014, most of those served through MAP will be eligible for Medi-Cal. The Department and its community partners will assist this population to transition into Medi-Cal managed care administered through the Central California Alliance for Health in Merced County. The Blue Shield grant is funded through June 2014, and will be coordinated with the activities of the ACA Readiness grant.

### Policy Updates on ACA and Local Implementation Activities

Joel Diringer

Joel provided the following ACA updates:

#### Federal

- The federal government has delayed the "pay or play" mandate for large employers 50 or more full-time
  equivalent employees until January 2015. Under that mandate, employees that work 30 or more hours a
  week will be provided with health insurance or the employer will pay a "shared responsibility" payment to
  the IRS.
- Most large employers, about 90%, already provide coverage for their employees. In the San Joaquin
  Valley agricultural employers may be impacted. Some farm workers would be able to get coverage under
  the ACA employer mandate; but, due to documentation status, many won't be eligible for coverage under
  the Health Benefits Exchange or Medi-Cal.
- There is a dependent glitch in the ACA that has to do with the affordability of coverage. An individual can only qualify for subsidized coverage through the Exchange if his/her employee-only portion of the insurance cost is not affordable i.e. exceeds 9.5% of her/his income. However, the cost of dependent coverage is not considered. Unfortunately, the dependents' health care cost will also not be subsidized because the coverage is considered "affordable", based on the employee-only portion, even though it may not be affordable for the family. (The dependents will not be subject to the individual mandate if the coverage exceeds 8% of the total family income). Remember however, that children's eligibility for Medi-Cal goes up to 250% of the federal poverty level, so they may be covered even is a parent is not.
- Dr. Livermore what is the reason was behind the employer mandate delay? Joel the stated reason was the complexity of the reporting requirements for the employers.
- Everything else regarding employer coverage remains in effect. That includes consumer protections, such as unmarried children can remain on the plan until age 26, no lifetime caps, and no preexisting condition exclusions.
- The individual mandate is still in effect. There is a requirement that every legal resident have coverage, whether it is through Medi-Cal, Medicare, through the Exchange, or through an employer.
- The federal CMMS issued regulation on navigators. California is issuing regulations, in compliance with the Federal regulations.

#### Materials Provided:

Affordable
Care Act
Implementation
Updates July 2013
PowerPoint







#### State

- Covered California has added an August 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting and is revisiting the pediatric dental coverage. The initial plan was not to make pediatric dental coverage mandatory but there has been a lot of push back.
- The state will issue RFPs in early September for non-profits for \$5 million in grants for enrollment counselors to enroll people in Covered California. [Now postponed until 2014.]
- Covered California will be doing a large public education campaign. They have delayed it to the fall when people can actually enroll. This latest campaign is focusing on certain populations, such as young adults. They want (and need) to get a younger, healthier population into the insurance pool.
- The California Endowment is also going to be initiating a large campaign geared mostly toward Medi-Cal
  outreach. Jennifer Mockus her understanding of the Endowment's media campaign is that it will focus on
  the Hispanic populations and use Spanish media sources as well as focusing outreach to Boys and Men of
  Color. [TCE campaign is at asegurate.com Spanish and English]
- There was a study regarding language that was presented to Covered California. Some of the key words have been changed. The term Assisters has been changed to Certified Enrollment Counselors. Grantees will now be known as Certified Educators. Agents will be now known as Certified Insurance Agents. The catastrophic plan will now be called the minimum coverage plan. Rating regions will now be known as pricing regions. Tax credits will now be known as premium assistance.
- Marc Smith What about those that fall under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)? Joel these
  are people who came to the U.S. as children and have had education, military service or jobs here. They
  have a deferred immigration status; they are not able to get coverage through Medi-Cal or the Exchange.
  They could get emergency Medi-Cal coverage.
- Marc Will Medi-Cal continue to operate the way it has? Joel yes, as far as he knows. It will include a
  much larger population that's eligible. It will include the expansion population of single adults/childless
  adults.
- Stephanie Dietz how does presumptive eligibility factors into that policy. Bobbie Wunsch -they are still trying to figure out how presumptive eligibility will work, so stay tuned. Joel presumptive eligibility is when you go to a provider and they assume that you will be eligible for Medi-Cal. They will put you on presumptive Medi-Cal for a short time but the patient has to enroll during that period. Bobbie the provider is paid retroactively.

## CA Medicaid Expansion Update

Kathleen Grassi

Kathleen provided an update on Medi-Cal expansion for the medically indigent:

• The Department is working on a plan to transfer the eligibility function of the current MAP program from Public Health to the Human Services Agency (HSA) which administers the Medi-Cal program. This proposal should be on the Board of Supervisors agenda at the end of August. A major reason for the transition is because they want to start using the Medi-Cal application for the indigent population beginning







	in September. By doing this, they will be able to identify early-on all the information that they will need to gather for those who will be moving into Medi-Cal in January. Kathleen feels this will give them a leg up on facilitating that transition.
ACA Outreach and Enrollment  Jennifer Mockus,	<ul> <li>Alliance Outreach Materials</li> <li>Jennifer Mockus - A flyer was presented at the Santa Cruz Consortium meeting. It's applicable to all members of the community, it has a good readability and it can be easily translated. The flyer contains enough information to get people interested but not overwhelmed. Jennifer suggested that Merced consider using a modified version of the flyer for initial distribution to the public.</li> </ul>
Central California Alliance for Health	Karl Stahlhut - use a monthly income rather than annual income brackets on the flyer because people are more likely to know their monthly income.
Joel Diringer	Jennifer asked the group to contact Sarah Baker with any other comments or suggestions by August 8 <sup>th</sup> .
	<ul> <li>Joel - Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP) has come out with a document that would be a good training tool. Jennifer - ITUP has a regional meeting usually held in Fresno that is good opportunity to learn about what is happening in other counties. If anyone is interested, she can provide the information.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Jennifer Mockus - the Alliance plans to look at their 2012 calendar and identify the health fairs that they attended last year and to provide outreach and education at those fairs in 2013/14. The Alliance is also in the process of looking at developing a speakers' bureau and possibly working with their collaborating agencies to train presenters. Joel asked if she could submit that information so it can be add to the data.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mapping Outreach, Education and Enrollment Activities – Mapping Exercise</li> <li>Joel facilitated a mapping activity with the group. The attendees were asked to identify their outreach, education, and enrollment activities though Covered California and Medi-Cal by four main geographic areas within Merced County. This information was charted so that the information can later be compiled and gaps can be identified.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>O &amp; E Subcommittee Formation</li> <li>Joel - an email will be sent out inviting those interested to work on an outreach and education subcommittee. The group will look at the mapping results and to identify gaps.</li> </ul>
Policy Briefs	Bobbie Wunsch presented information on the development of policy briefs to be prepared:
Bobby Wunsch, Pacific Health Consulting Group	The first policy brief is made possible through the new Blue Shield grant, which is focused on the transition of the medically indigent into Medi-Cal.
	In September, a "map" will be developed that will identify where in the community the medically indigent go for health care or other services. This information will be incorporated into the policy brief which will give a big picture view of the uninsured, including the county's legal obligation under section 17000 to the







	uninsured, the numbers of residual uninsured and where they live in the community, and the impact the residually uninsured will have on providers.	
	Two policy briefs will be developed under the ACA Readiness Project. The first, to be done in 2-3 months, will be a broad view on the implementation of the ACA in Merced County. It will cover issues like who will be eligible for coverage expansion under Medicaid and Covered California and provider capacity.	
	• The topic of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> policy brief has yet to be finalized; but, the prevention components of the ACA are being considered. It would discuss funding for prevention services, the new preventative benefits in the Medicare program, and public health type prevention activities that are identified in the ACA but so far have little to no federal funding for.	
	These briefs will be available for everyone to use and disseminate as they'd like.	
	<ul> <li>Marc Smith - would it be possible to get the uninsured estimates by zip code to see where the greatest concentration is. Bobbie - they will do their best to find some data sources, but that data doesn't currently exist, it's only available by County. Jennifer Mockus - the Alliance has Medi-Cal aggregate data of their members by zip zone.</li> </ul>	
Upcoming Topics		Materials
Joel Diringer	enrollment, provider capacity, prevention services, and mental health parity. He asked the group if there were any other major topics that they would like to see addressed:	Provided:
Joer Diffinger		Issue Topic Areas
	Marc Smith - schools and religious organizations should be involved because they could make their	for Project Focus Chart
	<ul> <li>Candice Adam-Medefind - a recent study, from UC Berkeley, UCLA, and the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, talked about how language will be a barrier to enrollment. They anticipate that somewhere around 100,000 people in California wouldn't get into programs that they are eligible for because of these issues. She thinks that being culturally responsive is important. Joel - cultural, linguistic, and immigration issues can be discussed at future meetings.</li> </ul>	
Other Business	Reverend Ramsey – Horizons is a new provider in Merced County. The Alliance is the sole administrator	
All	of Medi-Cal provider networks in this community. Jennifer Mockus - Horizons is a medical clinic which has sites in Merced, Los Banos, and in Livingston. They accept several forms of insurance coverage, Medi-Cal being one of them. Reverend Ramsey - Horizons should be invited to these meetings. Kathleen -provide contact information and she will follow up with them.	
	Jennifer - offered to meet with Reverend Ramsey so that she can give him some information about the Alliance. Reverend Ramsey - his concern is with keeping his money here in Merced County. He feels we are sending people with care needs out of the county because there is one entity making those decisions.	







- Kathleen not all attending this meeting may fully understand the role of Medi-Cal managed care and
  particularly the Alliance's administration of Medi-Cal managed care on behalf of Merced County. She
  proposed that Jennifer provide a brief overview of the Alliance at the next meeting. Jennifer agreed.
- April Brewer she is familiar with how Alliance operates and they are very proactive in keeping the care here in the community. Keeping care local is their goal, because most of Medi-Cal patients have transportation issues. They push for healthcare providers to refer patients to local providers. There is just not always a provider here locally to send them to.

# **Next Meeting**:

No meeting in August. Next meeting will be September 26, 2013 at the Public Health Department.





