

ACA Planning Group MEETING NOTES

**Tuesday, May 28, 2013
3:30 PM to 5:00 PM**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

San Luis Obispo County



In Attendance:

Bartel	Trish	Twin Cities- Dir Business Dev	Hamm	Jeff	Health Agency-
Benitez	Rich	Latino Outreach Council	Jay	Diane	Health Agency- PH
Bernhardt	Dave	Transitions MHA-	Kelly	Nora	Health Agency- PH
Bollinger	Marsha	Consumer Rep	Khan	Edie	AIDS Support Network
Borenstein	Penny	Health Agency- PH	Kilburn	David	AIDS Support Network
Brown	Leslie A	County Administration	Lassen	Abby	CA Rural Legal Assoc.volunteer
Cameron	Sue	Health Agency – PH/Jail Medical	Lewis	Cathy	AIDS Support Network-SLO HEP C
Carsel	Becca	First 5-Health Access Trnng Cnsltnt	Lisa	Mark	Hospitals- TC, CEO
Diringer	Joel	Diringer & Associates	McIntosh	Grace	CAPSLO-
Drabinski	Kevin	Field Rep- Assemblyman Achadjian	Merkle	Theresa	CenCal Health-
Dudley	Pam	Health Agency- PH	Miller	Jackie	Health Agency- BH
Framberger	Michael	Health Insurance Consultant	Raymond	Jean	Health Comm- Adult Svcs Policy Cncl
Fraser	Lisa	Child Abuse Prevention Council	Schiro	Tracy	DSS-
Garcia	Pati	DSS-	Shay	Jennifer	Health Agency- PH
Gilman	Amy	CovCA Grant Contractor	Smith-Cooke	Scott	Health Comm
Gonzales	Gloria	County- Sheriff's- Custody Div	Stets	Natalie	The LINK
			Taylor	Mike	Health Agency- PH
			Underwood	Sandy	Dignity Health
			Walter	Natalie	DSS-

May 28, 2013 ACA PLANNING GROUP MEETING

Welcome & Introductions

Joel Diringer

Policy/Program Updates

Joel Diringer

- Covered California (Health Exchange)
- Outreach & Education Grants
- Medi-Cal expansion

Care Coordination & Capacity Update

CenCal Health

Outreach & Education Update

- Provider Activities CHC
- Non-Profit & Public Sector Activities Penny Borenstein
- Private Sector Activities Michael Framberger

Open Discussion

Proposed Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2013, 3:30 to 5:00, Location TBD

Joel Diring, of Diring and Associates, welcomed the stakeholder representatives and asked each person to introduce themselves and state what either excites or concerns them about the ACA. The response was an interesting mix with several stakeholders expressing concern about the supply of health care providers willing and able to care for the newly insured.

Mr. Diring began his presentation by stating that there was big news in California this week. While all the details are not yet available, Covered California announced the qualified health plans participating in the Exchange and the proposed rates. The estimated 15,000-17,000 SLO County residents eligible for a health plan in the Exchange will have just two choices: Blue Shield or Anthem/Blue Cross. All plans on



the Exchange must offer a basic set of essential health benefits and are ranked as Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on coverage and costs. The Bronze Plan pays for 60% of total estimated health care costs; Silver Plan pays 70%; Gold Plan pays 80%; and Platinum pays 90%.

A 40 year old single individual earning 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL), (just under \$46,000/yr) would pay \$314 a month for a Silver Plan.

Covered California

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- Example rates: 40 yr old single individual, Silver Plan
 - Federal subsidies in green

Plan	150 FPL	200 FPL	250 FPL	400 FPL
Blue Shield PPO	\$46 \$268	\$109 \$205	\$181 \$133	\$314 \$0
Anthem PPO	\$57 \$268	\$121 \$205	\$193 \$133	\$326 \$0
Kaiser Permanente HMO	\$64 \$268	\$127 \$205	\$200 \$133	\$332 \$0
Ventura County Health Care Plan HMO	\$68 \$268	\$131 \$205	\$204 \$133	\$336 \$0

Covered California

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□ **Without subsidies**

25 YEAR OLD		
Plan	Catastrophic	Bronze
Blue Shield PPO	\$196	\$206
Anthem PPO	\$165	\$193
Kaiser Permanente HMO	\$195	\$197
Ventura County Health Plan HMO	\$173	\$199

40 YEAR OLD				
Plan	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Blue Shield PPO	\$262	\$314	\$374	\$429
Anthem PPO	\$246	\$326	\$395	\$458
Kaiser Permanente HMO	\$250	\$332	\$408	\$439
Ventura County Health Plan HMO	\$253	\$336	\$376	\$430

Mr. Diring continued by saying that it came as a big surprise that Covered California did not award our county the \$300,000 collaborative grant request submitted by Public Health. Although Covered California initially stated that it was their intent to spread the outreach and education grant funding among all regions of the state, no grants were awarded to organizations based on the Central Coast. Some statewide organizations awarded grant funding did indicate they intend to conduct some outreach and education in our county; however, their grant awards would have to stretch quite far to reach San Luis Obispo County.

Outreach & Education Grants

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- **Covered California outreach and education grantees funded to do work in San Luis Obispo County:**
 - California School Health Centers Association
 - Regents of UC – UC Berkeley School of Public Health – Health Initiative of Americas (??)

- **HRSA allocation:**
 - Community Health Centers: \$290,499

Some good news for local outreach and education efforts comes from the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA), which recently announced grant allocations to Community Health Centers, including \$290, 499 for Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHCCC), to fund outreach and education activities and a full-time coordinator position. Representatives from CHCCC were not available to update the group on the status of their grant allocation.

Mr. Diringer also briefed the group on the Governor's May Revise Budget, which until now, left pending the state's plans for a county-based or a state-based Medi-Cal expansion. As many expected, the state will proceed with a state-based expansion of Medi-Cal, but the governor's proposed budget seeks to take the savings counties could realize from the ACA's federal funding for indigent health care. How, when, and how much the state will take from the counties is being debated. A single methodology for determining the amount of realignment will not work for the diverse counties. Mr. Diringer stated that we should know more by the June 15 budget deadline. He also advised stakeholders that a lot of information can be learned from the Exchange's board meetings (Webcast and minutes available online at <http://www.healthexchange.ca.gov/BoardMeetings/Pages/Default.aspx>.)

Medi-Cal Expansion and County Re-alignment

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- **May Revise Budget proposal**
 - **Statewide approach**
 - **Same benefits as current Medi-Cal**
 - **No asset test, except possibly for long term care benefit**
 - **Gradual take-back of State Realignment funds provided to counties based on actual spending of indigent care**

Mr. Diringer presented the recently released federal prototype for the simplified and shortened single application for Medi-Cal and the Exchange. People may apply online, by phone, or in person. The CalHEERS system will work behind the application to search out supporting records, such as payroll and tax information. The application process will determine if the applicant is eligible for public or private health insurance. The draft individual application package is available at the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#), and may be found under the heading *Affordable Insurance Exchanges, Forms, April 30, 2013, Marketplace Consumer Application*. The following is the cover page of three-page Individual Short Form.



Application for Health Coverage & Help Paying Costs (Short Form)

THINGS TO KNOW

 <p>Use this application to see what coverage you qualify for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable private health insurance plans that offer comprehensive coverage to help you stay well A new tax credit that can immediately help pay your premiums for health coverage Free or low-cost insurance from Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
 <p>Who can use this application?</p>	<p>Single adults who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aren't offered health coverage from their employer Don't have any dependents and can't be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return <p>NOTE: If any of the following apply, you need to fill out a different form to make sure you get the most benefits possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're married or have dependent children. You were in the foster care system, and you're under age 26. You have items that can be deducted from your income. If your only deduction is student loan interest, you can use this form. You're American Indian or Alaska Native.
 <p>Apply faster online</p>	<p>Apply faster online at HealthCare.gov.</p>
 <p>What you may need to apply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Social Security number (or document number if you're a legal immigrant) Employer and income information (for example, from paystubs, W-2 forms, or wage and tax statements)
 <p>Why do we ask for this information?</p>	<p>We ask about income and other information to let you know what coverage you qualify for and if you can get any help paying for it. We'll keep all the information you provide private, as required by law.</p>
 <p>What happens next?</p>	<p>Send your complete, signed application to the address on page 3. If you don't have all the information we ask for, sign and submit your application anyway. We'll follow up with you within 1-2 weeks. Filling out this application doesn't mean you have to buy health coverage.</p>
 <p>Get help with this application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online: HealthCare.gov. Phone: Call our Help Center at 1-800-XXX-XXXX. In person: There may be counselors in your area who can help. Visit HealthCare.gov, or call 1-800-XXX-XXXX for more information. En Español: Llame a nuestro centro de ayuda gratis al 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION? Visit HealthCare.gov or call us at 1-800-XXX-XXXX. Para obtener una copia de este formulario en Español, llame 1-800-XXX-XXXX. If you need help in a language other than English, call 1-800-XXX-XXXX and tell the customer service representative the language you need. We'll get you help at no cost to you. TTY users should call 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

Dr. Penny Borenstein, Health Officer, updated the group on the status of three potential funding sources for countywide outreach and enrollment activities. As Mr. Diring mentioned, everyone was surprised the County was not awarded a grant from Covered California. Consequently, the Outreach & Enrollment Subgroup held its last meeting May 16 deciding that, without funding for a project coordinator, each organization would instead proceed with separate strategies for outreach and enrollment of targeted

populations throughout the county. The Subgroup stakeholders recommended ongoing communications and collaboration. Covered California is expected to launch their statewide advertising campaign in July. Dr. Borenstein reported that the Subgroup was pleased that HRSA allocated funding to CHCCC for outreach and enrollment. No representatives from CHCCC attended the Outreach and Enrollment Subgroup meeting.

Update on O&E Grant Applications

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- Covered California (California's Health Exchange) Outreach & Education Grant
- Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) County Enrollment Assistance Grant
- Covered California Assisters Programs: In-Person Assisters Program and Navigator Grant Program

Dr. Borenstein said that Public Health has applied to Blue Shield of California Foundation for a \$114,639 grant to fund the smooth transition of CMSP enrollees into Medi-Cal or the Exchange. Notice of that award is expected in June. Applications for the Covered California Assisters Programs have not yet been released. Several local organizations have expressed an interest in applying for either one of these programs. It is still not clear if In-Person Assisters associated with Public Health will be eligible for compensation.

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Care Coordination & Capacity Update

CenCal Health

Theresa Merkle, of CenCal Health, summarized the last meeting of the Care Coordination Subgroup held on April 2. Concerns raised by those in attendance included: reimbursement rates; communication between specialists and primary care physicians; patient compliance; complex co-morbidities; increased physician liability; unmet mental health needs and co-occurring disorders; as well as a general lack of resources within the practice. CenCal reported to the Subgroup survey results which identified the following specialties as having the most limited local access to care: Allergy, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Orthopedic Surgery, Pulmonology, and Hep C Treatment. The Subgroup also discussed plans to develop a local Health Information Exchange (HIE). Next steps for the Subgroup include expanding the group to include representatives from the hospitals, additional specialties, and legislators; research best practices from Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties on case managing high-cost

users; and research the underserved patient population, including those in need of mental health and addiction treatment services. Ms. Merkle announced the next meeting will be sometime late June and will once again be held in the evening to accommodate physicians.

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Outreach & Education Update

- ❑ Provider Activities: CHC
- ❑ Non-Profit & Public Sector Activities: Penny Borenstein
- ❑ Private Sector Activities: Michael Framberger

There was no CHC representative in attendance to provide an update.

An update on the activities of the Department of Social Services (DSS) was provided by Tracy Schiro who said that they will have their new call center in place by October 1. The DSS call center will be staffed with six people trained to answer questions about Medi-Cal and Covered California health plans.

Community Forum?

Santa Barbara County

You're Invited...

Understanding Health Care Reform

Free Forum
Refreshments provided courtesy of CenCal Health

Who Should Attend:
Local residents, school district and community-based organization staff, health care workers

Date and Time: Thursday, May 23, 2013 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Location: Goleta Union School District Office, 401 N. Fairview, Goleta

Content:

- Why was the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enacted?
- Who does it affect? Who is not affected?
 - Who is eligible under the Medi-Cal expansion?
 - What is "Covered California"?
 - Who is eligible for subsidies under the Covered California Health Benefit Exchange?
- What does it do?
 - New protections and benefits
 - What's in place now
 - What will go into effect in 2014?
- What is being done locally to be ready and to help people enroll?
- What is still being worked out at the State level?

Agenda:

- 5:30 Gather, Refreshments, Welcome
Supervisor Janet Wolfe, Board of Supervisors, 2nd District
- 5:45 Presentation: **Understanding Health Care Reform**
Takashi Hasegawa, MD, MPH, Public Health Department Director/Health Officer; and Bob Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, CenCal Health
- 7:00 Question & Answer
- 7:20 Wrap Up

Dr. Borenstein mentioned the recent community education forum held in Santa Barbara County and asked the group if they felt there was currently a need for a similar event in this county. Mr. Diringer noted that it has been his experience with similar forums in other counties that they are mostly attended by

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people with questions about Medicare and he suggested such a forum should include a representative from HiCAP.

Mr. Diringler noted that this was a perfect segue for Michael Framberger, local health insurance professional, to discuss his plans for outreach and education. Mr. Framberger provided the group with a copy of his draft press release inviting the community to attend his "Get Covered Central Coast" campaign's first in a series of educational forums titled "Understanding the Individual Mandate to Purchase Health Insurance." Mr. Framberger proposed a public-private outreach effort. He has already met with business and non-profit community leaders as well as representatives from Covered California. Although his campaign is targeting individuals and businesses eligible for Covered California health plans, he welcomes participation from organizations to conduct outreach and enrollment for the Medi-Cal eligible population. Mr. Framberger stated that his campaign will collaborate with Assisters to maximize enrollment. He suggested stakeholders visit the website he created for the campaign: GetCoveredCentralCoast.com.

Mr. Diringler concluded the meeting by proposing the group meet again on June 25 to discuss access and coordination of mental health services.

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Open Discussion

Proposed next meeting date:
Tuesday, June 25, 2013
3:30 to 5:00
Location TBD