

# ACA Planning Group

## MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

San Luis Obispo County



### In Attendance:

Bacus	Larry	CHC-	Lotwala	Bob	CHC-
Baylor	Karen	Health Agency- BH	McIntosh	Grace	CAPSLO-
Bolster-White	Jill	Transitions MHA- ED	McKenna	Joan	Dignity Health
Borenstein	Penny	Health Agency- PH	Meltz	Martin	Community Volunteer
Brown	Leslie A	County Administration	Merkle-Scott	Theresa	CenCal Health-
Carsel	Becca	First 5-Health Access Consultant	Miller	Jackie	Health Agency- BH
Cress	Sara	CHC- Mental Health Director	Owen	Marina	CenCal Health-
Diringe	Joel	Diringe & Associates	Raymond	Jean	Health Comm- Adult Svcs Cncl
Drabinski	Kevin	Field Rep- Assemblyman Achadjian	Schulte	Greg	County Administration
Dudley	Pam	Health Agency- PH	Shay	Jennifer	Health Agency- PH
Framberger	Michael	Health Insurance Consultant	Steinberg	Biz	CAPSLO-
Gilman	Amy	PH Consultant	Taylor	Mike	Health Agency- PH
Gonzales	Gloria	County- Sheriff's- Custody Div	Underwood	Sandy	Dignity Health
Graber	Star	Health Agency- BH	Walters	Nancy	SVRMC-Conifer Pt Advocate
Guzman	Jose	CHC	Warren	Sue	North County Connection
Hamm	Jeff	Health Agency-	Weir	Laurel	DSS- Homeless Svcs Coord.
Infanto	Villa	Hospitals- AG	Lotwala	Bob	CHC-
Kelly	Nora	Health Agency- PH	McIntosh	Grace	CAPSLO-
Khan	Edie	AIDS Support Network	McKenna	Joan	Dignity Health
Kilburn	David	AIDS Support Network	Meltz	Martin	Community Volunteer
			Merkle-Scott	Theresa	CenCal Health-

June 25, 2013 ACA PLANNING GROUP MEETING	
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Joel Diringe
<b>Policy/Program Updates</b>	Joel Diringe
<b>State Budget</b>	Jeff Hamm
<b>Outreach &amp; Education Update</b>	Penny Borenstein
<b>Care Coordination &amp; Capacity Update</b>	CenCal Health
<b>Panel Discussion: ACA &amp; Behavioral Health Services</b>	
Panelists:	
Sara Cress, LCSW Mental Health Director of CHOC	
Jill Bolster-White Executive Director of Transitions-Mental Health Association	
Karen Baylor, PhD Administrator of SLO County Behavioral Health Department	
Star Graber, PhD Division Manager of Drug & Alcohol Services, SLO County Behavioral Health	
Marina Owen Director of Provider Services and Program Development, CenCal Health	
<b>Next Steps</b>	
Next meeting 7/16/13	

Joel Diringe, of Diringe and Associates, welcomed the stakeholder representatives and asked each person to introduce themselves.

## Next Steps

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### □ Tentative meeting schedule

7/16/13*	8/27/13	9/17/13
10/29/13	11/19/13	No Dec. Meeting
1/21/14	2/18/14	3/18/14

\*7/16 back to back with Care Coord meeting (?)

- Schedule 2 hour meetings starting at 3:00 (?)
- Requests for future meeting topics?

Mr. Diring began the meeting's presentation (slides inserted) by skipping to the final slide, Next Steps, since the panel discussion could run late and he wanted to discuss the future meetings while everyone was still in attendance. The upcoming meetings are scheduled as indicated, with next month's meeting scheduled back-to-back with the Provider Care Coordination Subgroup meeting—both will be held at today's location (SLO County Library, Community Meeting Room). Starting next month, meetings will last 2 hours and begin at 3:00.

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## Affordable Care Act Policy & Program Updates

### Federal Regulations/Actions

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- HHS re-launched [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) emphasizing eligibility and open enrollment
- Final regulations governing wellness programs in group health plans
- Immigration overhaul legislation – a 10 year wait for Medicaid or Exchange

Mr. Diring noted that the revamped [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) website is more user-friendly.

He commented that regulations governing wellness programs must find the fine line between encouraging healthy behaviors while not practicing discrimination.

Mr. Diring stated that if immigration reform passes, Medicaid and the Exchange probably won't cover recent immigrants.

## State Legislative ACA Update

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- **ABX1 2 and SBX1 2 (signed into law)**
  - Prevents plans from denying coverage to individuals with **pre-existing conditions**
  - Establishes **community rating** measures,
  - requires **guaranteed issue/renewal of health insurance** in individual and small group markets
  - Establishes **19 geographic regions** for setting insurance rates

These two bills take a lot of the federal protections and implement them into California law.

## State Legislative ACA Update

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**ABX1 1/SBX1 1 - MEDI-CAL EXPANSION – awaiting signature**

- **Full-scope Medi-Cal** for Adults with income **up to 138% FPL**
  - asset test for long-term care services, if approved,
- **Mental health services and substance use disorder services** included in the 'benchmark' Kaiser plan added for all Medi-Cal populations
- **Foster care** 18 year olds to receive Medi-Cal until age 26 regardless of income
- New healthcare application will **link to a new federal verification hub** and state data sources

Mr. Diring continued, saying that Medi-Cal will provide the same scope of benefits as the benchmark plan on the Exchange to align with the ACA, including some mental health and substance abuse services. The

implication of linking enrollment applications with federal databases is that applicants will not have to provide information already available on one of the linked databases. Finding and providing required documentation is often a barrier to completing a Medi-Cal application.

Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director, added that these two bills received only one Republican vote, which was cast by our own Katcho Achadjian. Mr. Hamm addressed Kevin Drabinski, Field Representative for Assemblyman Achadjian, and asked him to let Assemblyman Achadjian know that his vote was appreciated. Stakeholders applauded.

## State Legislative Medi-Cal Update

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### AB 82, Omnibus Health Trailer Bill

- Partial restoration of **dental services for adults in Medi-Cal** beginning May 2014
- Restoration of **enteral nutrition** benefit beginning May 2014
- Requires DHCS to accept \$26.5 million in Medi-Cal Enrollment Assistance from The California Endowment for enrollment assistors (\$14M) and community based organizations (\$12.5M), and to seek federal match of \$26.5 million to ensure low-income Californians receive the same assistance and outreach as Exchange
- Continuing funding for the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to provide consumer assistance activities
- **Rescission of 10% Medi-Cal provider cut not part of agreement**

Mr. Diring continued by noting that the budget passed, but is not yet signed by the Governor. Under this budget, benefits would be improved in Medi-Cal, most notably by restoring many adult dental services that were cut in 2009, including: preventative care, examinations, fluoride treatments, restorations, crown, root canal therapy, full dentures and repairs, and emergency care. Enteral nutrition benefits for patients who can't chew will start in May 2014 for both existing and newly eligible Medi-Cal recipients.

The \$26.5 million for Medi-Cal enrollment assistance will fund a program similar to the Covered California Assisters Program. If federal match is approved, the total funding pool will be \$53 million.

The 10% cut to Medi-Cal provider payments was not rescinded. Mr. Diring commented that it is unfortunate that we are expanding health coverage and, at the same time, contracting the supply of providers.

## State Legislative Realignment Update

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- **AB 85 establishes a new mechanism to determine county realignment funding for health care**
  
- **And now, a word from our Health Agency Director...**

Mr. Hamm addressed the group and explained that trailer bills SB80/AB85 propose the reallocation of county safety-net dollars. Our County Medical Services Program (CMSP) provides limited and episodic coverage for medically indigent adult (MIA) residents, and the County estimates that Medi-Cal expansion will enable up to 90% of the enrollees to transition out of CMSP, most into Medi-Cal and some will obtain insurance coverage through the Exchange. The Governor proposed to immediately take back the MIA funding from counties and offered counties the choice between two different formulas for calculating how much the state will take. Mr. Hamm said that our County has worked closely with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the lobbying organization representing county government, who has negotiated with the Governor for the last 6 weeks. Mr. Hamm noted that the bills that passed take from the counties more than what the state gave, and the state fought aggressively to take from the counties what they believe will be their potential savings. Mr. Hamm concluded by saying that the Governor's approach will significantly harm county public health budgets not associated with indigent medical care.

## Covered California

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- **Application assister regulations still pending**
- **Certified Enrollment Entity Interest Form**
  - <https://assisters.ccgrantsandassisters.org>
- **Revised public website:**
  - <http://www.coveredca.com/>
- **PowerPoint presentation**
  - <http://www.coveredca.com/news/index.html>

Mr. Diring reported that Covered California selected six pediatric dental plans: Anthem Dental, Blue Shield of California, Delta Dental of California, Health Net Dental, LIBERTY Dental Plan and Premier Access Dental. The products include stand-alone plans, and all can be bundled with health insurance for a single premium.

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## Outreach & Education Update

### Community Forums

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COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION  
SEMINARS



**GET COVERED CENTRAL COAST**  
*"Understanding the Individual Mandate to Purchase Health Insurance"*

If you are under the age of 65, a small business owner or self-employed, you probably have questions about what the Affordable Care Act means to you. Join us for one of these free community forums designed to help you understand if you will be required to buy health insurance and if you will be able to get financial assistance to help pay for it.

**Twin Cities  
Community Hospital**  
Monday, June 17  
5:30pm-7pm  
1100 Las Tablas Road, Templeton

**Sierra Vista Regional  
Medical Center**  
Wednesday, June 19  
5:30pm-7pm  
1010 Murray Avenue, SLO

Speakers:  
Michael Framberger - Insurance Professional 34 Years Experience  
Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH - County Health Officer

Seating is limited, please call to reserve your space.  
**1 (800) 483-6387**



Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer, provided a brief summary of outreach and education efforts. She said the intent of the Outreach, Education & Enrollment Subgroup was to coordinate a countywide effort, but without the Covered California grant funding, the group temporarily lost its steam. Dr. Borenstein reported that Covered California reconsidered California Family Resource Association's grant request and awarded them outreach and education funding; however, the award dictated inclusion of some northern CA counties and removal of SLO County which had been in their original grant application. Now that the California Endowment funds will soon trickle down, she hopes our county will reap some of that funding and will pull the group back together to target the county's Medi-Cal population.

Dr. Borenstein stated that Mike Framberger, of Framberger Insurance, has organized several community forums to educate residents about opportunities for health coverage under the ACA. Mr. Framberger speaks about obtaining private health insurance through the Exchange/Covered California and Dr. Borenstein participated in two forums to speak about health coverage through Medi-Cal.

# Community Forums



**COMMUNITY FORUMS**  
What you need to know about health care reform – How will it impact you?



**JOIN US!**

DATE	CITY	LOCATION	TIME
July 1, 2013	Paso Robles	City Council Chambers	6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
July 8, 2013	San Miguel	Mission San Miguel Parish Hall	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
July 10, 2013	Paso Robles	Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
July 16, 2013	Tampanon	Twin Cities Community Hospital	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**SPEAKER:**  
Michael Framberger, Insurance Professional 34 Years of Experience

Seating is limited, call to reserve your space.  
(800) 483-6387



**How will the Affordable Care Act impact you and your family?**

A practical discussion about Health Care Reform in San Luis Obispo County

More than 20,000 residents in SLO County will become eligible for health insurance on January 1, 2014.

Wednesday, June 26  
6:00 pm  
City/County Library  
995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA

Understand the new Health Care Law and the changes that will impact you, your family, local doctors and hospitals by attending this frank discussion with our local health care experts:





  



Hosted by the Latino Outreach Council, this is the second in a series of panel discussions dedicated to providing knowledgeable and up-to-date information about the new ACA and its impact on the SLO County community. Join the LUC Executive Board for refreshments at 5:30 pm prior to the event.

For more information contact Kasey Burke at [www.lucsl.org](http://www.lucsl.org).

**OTHERS?**

Mr. Framberger added that besides several community forums scheduled in the north county, he will also have one in Santa Maria at Marian Medical Center. Dr. Borenstein also announced a forum for June 26 on the ACA hosted by the Latino Outreach Council.

## 12 Care Coordination & Capacity Update

### CenCal Health

Theresa Merkle-Scott, of CenCal Health, provided a brief summary of the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Provider Care Coordination and Capacity Subgroup. Ms. Merkle-Scott said the meeting was very productive and well-attended. She was pleased that leadership from both Tenet and Dignity hospitals participated, but noted that the group still lacks participation from provider specialists. She said the meeting included an update from Dr. Hansen on HIE and CenCal shared their recent Provider Network and Physician Accessibility Analysis reports covering both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

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## Panel Discussion

### ACA & Behavioral Health Services

**Sara Cress, LCSW**

Mental Health Director of CHCCC

**Jill Bolster-White**

Executive Director of Transitions-Mental Health Association

**Karen Baylor, PhD**

Administrator of SLO County Behavioral Health Department

**Star Graber, PhD**

Division Manager of Drug & Alcohol Services, SLO County Behavioral Health

**Marina Owen**

Director of Provider Services and Program Development, CenCal Health

Mr. Diringler asked each panelist to briefly summarize what kind of services their organization provides and to comment on any significant gaps in behavioral health care services now or post ACA. Mr. Diringler clarified for the group that the term behavioral health includes mental health as well as drug and alcohol services.

Jill Bolster-White, of Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA), stated that TMHA partners with County Mental Health and serves people outside the County system. They provide housing, education, and family support groups from Paso Robles to Lompoc. Ms. Bolster-White said she sees large gaps in the mental health services available to low-income residents. Many of the people they serve have either no insurance or bad insurance. Few options are available to people who need basic mental health services and cannot afford private mental health services, and that's primarily who TMHA tries to serve.

Sara Cress, of Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHCCC), stated that CHCCC works closely with TMHA and the County. They have expanded their mental health services and she would like to add a provider in the north and south county clinics. CHCCC currently employs two full- and one part-time psychiatrists and six LCSWs. Ms. Cress added that FQHCs are not allowed to have MFTs provide mental health services, which limits their ability to expand services further. She reported that many patients they see cannot afford their prescribed mental health medications and lab work. Ms. Cress said that CHCCC received grant funding to work with UCLA to conduct a behavioral needs assessment study in San Luis Obispo County.

Karen Baylor, of the County Behavioral Health Department, said the County provides specialized mental health services for those who meet the criteria of medical necessity, which includes a mental illness coupled with significant difficulty functioning and the expectation that treatment will help. Dr. Baylor noted that the County accepts all residents and not just those on Medi-Cal. She stated that, once ACA is implemented, they expect to serve the same population they do now, but post ACA, she anticipates many of their clients will enroll in Medi-Cal. The County should then receive some payment for services they currently provide for free.

Star Graber, of County Drug and Alcohol Services, informed the group that the appropriate term is Substance Use Disorder and an optional term for the ACA is Another Change Again. Dr. Graber said that currently only 30% of their clients are covered by Medi-Cal and she estimates that the ACA could increase that Medi-Cal coverage to 70%. She anticipates that the ACA will bring a new revenue source for those clients currently receiving treatment. The ACA will bring expanded benefits including intensive outpatient treatment, methadone

treatment extended from 21 to 60 days, and the option of inpatient or outpatient medical alcohol detoxification treatment. Dr. Graber added that since treatment plans require a doctor's order, more MDs are needed as well as other treatment providers. She said that they have not been successful in recruiting providers from the outside, so they are working to raise up their own. Overall, it is a very exciting opportunity.

Marina Owen, of CenCal Health, stated that CenCal administers the Medi-Cal managed care plan that pays for medical care and only the mental health care needs that can be met by a general health care practitioner. Specialty mental health services, such as those provided by the County, are carved out from the rest of Medi-Cal managed care. With implementation of the ACA in 2014, some health plans will have to cover some mental health services for those not enrolled in a county mental health system. CenCal sees a gap in coverage for this population and looks forward to working with the others to find opportunities that will help address this issue.

Mr. Diringier thanked the panelists for their insights and invited the stakeholders to ask questions.

Questions followed about co-occurring disorders and the lack of integration of care for medical, mental health, and substance use disorder. Dr. Baylor responded that the County has co-located some staff, but says the regulations that govern county behavioral health programs are an obstacle to integrating departmental operations of Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services. In addition, Dr. Baylor acknowledged the need for better integration of behavioral health services and medical services, but that some progress has been made at the state level. Dr. Baylor said that state has merged its administration of Medi-Cal specialty mental health services into the department administering Medi-Cal medical services.

Stakeholders discussed the process a person seeking mental health or substance use disorder services would take given the various providers and fragmented services. Panelists responded that it depends where that person first sought assistance and added that public and private providers often initiate assistance and provide referrals.

The panel discussion and the meeting concluded with a general discussion about provider capacity. Dr. Borenstein commented that this topic is discussed in more detail at the Provider Care Coordination Subgroup meetings. Mr. Diringier reminded everyone that the Provider Care Coordination Subgroup will immediately follow next month's ACA Planning Group meeting at this same location (SLO County Library) on July 16<sup>th</sup>.