

Sacramento First 5 – Community Room
2750 Gateway Oaks Ste. 330
Sacramento CA 95833

Join by Phone: (916) 876-4100
Conference ID: 739583

AGENDA

1. 2:00 Welcome & Introductions

Terry Jones

Members Present: Robin Blanks-Guster, Martha Cisneros-Campos, Terry Jones, Cathy Levering, Dharia McGrew, Debra Payne, Jan Resler, Dorothy Seleski, Maritza Valencia, Mary Jess Wilson

Members on the Phone: Olivia Kasirye

Members Absent: Katie Andrew, Julie Gallelo, Steve Heath, Jonathan Porteus, Cynthia Vanzant

Public Present: Sonia Bingaman, Carolyn Brookins, Rodney Bughao, Danielle Cannarozzi, Kristina Clinton, Joshua Flamm, Alisha Gutierrez, Heather Hollingworth, Sommer McKenna, Susan McLearn, Bryan Nokelby, Gricelda Ocegueda, Kelsey Reyne, Nina Tecson, Mira Yang

Public on the Phone: Edward Bynum, Giselle Castro, Alani Jackson

2. 2:05 Approve June 6, 2019, Meeting Minutes (Action)

Terry Jones

Moved (McGrew), seconded (Blanks-Guster), carried.

3. 2:10 New MCDAC Dental Plan Seat (Action)

Terry Jones

a. Cannarozzi

Moved (Payne), seconded (Levering), carried.

4. 2:15 DHCS Update

Carolyn Brookins

a. [Dental Transformation Initiative Update](#)

Domain 1: \$48.7 million was issued during the first week of June 2019 for the January 2019 payment. The July 2019 payment is on schedule and expected to be issued by mid-August 2019.

Domain 2: There is a large increase in participating providers statewide with 1,944 providers opting in as of June 30, 2019. To date, providers have received a total payout of \$15.5 million.

Below is a count of Domain 2 participating providers, split between the existing and expansion counties:

Expansion Counties*:

Contra Costa – 18, Fresno – 42, Imperial – 9, Kern – 57, Los Angeles – 709, Madera – 6, Merced – 14, Monterey – 17, Orange – 249, Riverside – 167, San Bernardino – 131, San Diego – 139, San Joaquin – 31, Santa Barbara – 22, Santa Clara – 33, Sonoma – 16, Stanislaus – 33, Ventura – 75,

Existing Counties*:

Glenn – 1, Humboldt – 6, Inyo – 6, Kings – 5, Lassen - 0, Mendocino – 18, Plumas – 1, Sacramento – 124, Sierra – 0, Tulare – 61, Yuba - 2

*Current Provider Total: 1992

*Counts based on manual reporting. Providers with multiple service locations are duplicated.

Domain 3: The June 2019 payment of \$13.2M was issued to 759 providers. As a reminder to Safety Net Clinics participating in DTI, they have submission deadlines for claims to count toward the next scheduled payment (June 2020). May 1, 2020 is the deadline for proprietary (paper) claims, and June 20, 2020 is the deadline for electronic claims.

Domain 4: DHCS has paid \$29.4M to the 13 LDPPs of June 30, 2019. DHCS in process of conducting pilot project site visits and have completed seven out of thirteen to date. The focus of evaluation for these visits is to ensure that goals for serving identified populations is met and pilot implementation is in place. Bi-monthly teleconference meetings continue with the LDPPs, as an opportunity to educate, provide technical assistance, and share best practices/lessons learned. The next meeting is August 22, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.

[Prop 56 update](#)

- DHCS has submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal program to extend Proposition 56 through July 31, 2021. As of now, program continues as is with no interruptions in reimbursements to providers.
- On July 11, 2019, DHCS announced its commitment to award \$10.5 million in student loan repayment funds to forty dentists statewide (across 20 counties). At least two dentists in Sacramento County have benefitted from this program. CDA noted there were two dental students that declined the award and did not sign the contract with DHCS. DHCS expects five additional rounds of funding for loan repayment to come.
- Smile California continues the outreach that began in September 2018. In June 2019, Smile California issued surveys to seniors via email and postcards, and held focus groups with pregnant women and disabled adults to assess their oral health needs. The goal of focus groups and surveys is to develop materials and messaging targeted to those populations. If you would like to receive Smile, California alerts, send an email to hello@smilecalifornia.org.
- DHCS provided the group with the *August 2019 Medi-Cal Dental Services Division Sacramento County Fact Sheet*. DHCS used input from MCDAC members, received at the April 2019 meeting, to redesign the fact sheet. The fact sheet includes information on provider enrollment, utilization rates, the top five procedures billed, and a description of procedures and codes. Current (2018) utilization rates (ADV) for children with three months continuous enrollment is 39.86%. For adults, the rate is 20.36%. This is an improvement, but does not yet meet the goal set by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. There is optimism that utilization rates will continue to improve with full implementation of DTI pilot projects. If you would like to compare to statewide numbers to any of the measures or provider enrollment, please visit the dental data on the DHCS Medi-Cal Dental [webpage](#), or refer to the attached Los Angeles county fact sheet from April 2019, which contains some statewide information.

Dr. Rodney Bughao provides dental specialty care services in Sacramento County and surrounding region. Dr. Bughao serves clients with special needs, developmental disabilities, and those that require general anesthesia for dental treatment. Dr. Bughao accepts Medi-Cal Dental insurance, regular group insurance plans, and private pay and has working relationships with specific Sutter, Kaiser, and Greater Sacramento Surgery Center locations. Dr. Bughao reports the following conditions:

- A limited number of dentists in the region provide specialty dental care services.
- Referrals for specialty dental care services have increased over time and that trend is expected to continue. Currently, patient waiting time for specialty services ranges from two to seven months depending on the affiliated hospital.
- Despite continuous effort to increase working relationships with hospitals and surgery centers, gaining access to operating rooms is extremely difficult. There has been a significant decrease over time in both the number of operating rooms available and the number of hospitals/surgery centers offering access. For example, in the Sutter system regional dentists have gone from six days per week of total operating room time available to two days per week. This results in dentists having to compete for limited available space to serve a growing number of patients.
- Not all hospitals accept all insurance plans and some plans routinely decline to authorize payment for general anesthesia services. Anthem Blue Cross, for example, has a 97% denial rate. In 2015, DHCS developed an All Plan Letter (APL) and, in 2017, a 2017 Treatment Plan Flow Chart to provide guidelines for treatment authorization decision-making.

The California Dental Association, Sacramento District Dental Society, and individual dentists have provided case file examples and used the appeal process to remediate specific claims and to establish a pattern of behavior. In addition, various stakeholders have met with the leadership at Anthem Blue Cross to discuss a resolution. Despite this, there has been no appreciable increase in treatment authorization approval for general anesthesia cases.

Specialty care requires complex case management: planning of facility logistics, coordination and triage of medical/dental treatment, technical expertise in navigating medical and dental insurance systems, and time constraints. As such, dentists, staff and parent/advocates spend many hours of unreimbursed time planning each case. Systems that require continuous appeal contribute to an already beleaguered process.

Discussion

Levering: California Northstate University plans to fund the construction of a dental surgery

center. The estimated date of completion ranges from two to ten years.

Payne/Jones: Recommends continuing this discussion at future MCDAC. The Special Needs/General Anesthesia Work Group, a newly formed subcommittee of MCDAC, will meet and report to MCDAC.

Payne: Suggest setting up another conference call with all stakeholders present to renew the discussion and clarify the intent of APL and earlier guidance.

Brookins: Recommends a MCDAC member participate in Managed Care Advisory Group meetings. The next meeting is September 5, 2019. More information can be found on the DHCS website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/ManagedCareAdvisoryGroup.aspx>

Cannarozzi: Informed the group that Crystal Dental offers sedation services. Treating eligible patients in this type of venue may help relieve demand for operating room services.

Gutierrez: Discussed North Bay Regional Center's potential model to work with FQHC's to access dental services.

6. 2:55 Special Needs/General Anesthesia Work Group Update

Jan Resler

The Special Needs/General Anesthesia Work Group, a subcommittee of MCDAC, met for the first time on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 to discuss ongoing issues related to access to dental and general anesthesia services experienced by persons with special healthcare needs and developmental disabilities. "Challenges/Issues" and "Proposed Solutions" were listed on the whiteboard. Twenty-one meeting attendees ranked their top priorities from 1 to 3, with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the third highest.

The following **Challenges/Issues** ranked as the highest priority (scores weighted by priority level):

- Lack # of hospital rooms/hospitals (44)
- Lack # of available dentists/providers (14)
- Lack of collaboration/support from DHCS (8)
- Lack of data (what is scale of need?) (7)
- Lack of parent education (6)
- Lack of insurance acceptance (5)
- Lack of office level case management (4)
- Lack of whole-body approach (3)
- Focus on future instead of current needs (2)
- Specific provider denials (Anthem Blue Cross) (2)

Attendees ranked the following from the list of "**Proposed Solutions**":

- Address policy barriers to keep patients out of the operating room (8)
- Collect data needed for advocacy (4)

The group is schedule to meet again on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at the First 5 Community Room – 2750 Gateway Oaks, Suite 330, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to develop a plan of action.

7. 3:05 Dental Plans Update

Dental Plans

Seleski: Health Net appreciates the support for the Community Resource Center opening and reminded the group that there is event space available at the new facility. Health Net is in the process of recruiting for a new dental director.

Cannarozzi: Introduced Sommer McKenna, Liberty Dental Network Manager. Sommer replaces Melinda Anderson. Liberty Dental Plan staff will attend the following events during August and September:

Arcade Library Free Health Resource Fair
2443 Marconi Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821
Saturday, August 24th, 1 – 4 p.m.

Meadowview FRC Baby Shower
2251 Florin Rd, Ste 158 Sacramento 95822
RSVP only 916-394-6306
Tuesday, August 27th, 1 - 3 p.m.

Bundles at Mutual Assistance Network
2427 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento
Thursday, September 12th, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

San Juan USD Health fair
Saturday, September 14th
Mesa Verde High School (7501 Carriage Drive) - 10 a.m.

North Laguna Creek Park Day
September 15th - 5 p.m.
6400 Jacinto Avenue

4th Annual District 8 ¡Festival Latino!
Sunday, September 22nd
Nielsen Park (7596 Center Parkway) - 11 a.m.

Cisneros-Campos: Access Dental and Liberty Dental plans have collaborated to attend several Million Meal events this summer to provide oral health education and navigation services. The Million Meal sites, sponsored by Senator Pan, received approximately 20% more attendees than in the previous year. Access Dental and Liberty Dental gratefully acknowledged support received from the Center for Oral Health – Early Smiles Program and Sacramento Covered in assisting them in providing screening, fluoride varnish treatments, and navigation services. All programs are gearing up for back-to-school events and the beginning of the school year.

Access Dental plan is working with other dental plans to develop a quality improvement system to work toward systems to measure goals and outcomes of outreach activities.

8. 3:20 California Dental Association Update

Dharia McGrew

Governor Newsom signed the budget extending Proposition 56 funding through 2021. DHCS promptly released a bulletin and SPA so providers were well informed. CDA continues to advocate for continuity of supplemental payments for dental providers. During the first

eighteen months of increased reimbursement, almost 1,000 new providers have enrolled in Medi-Cal statewide, which is in line with Proposition 56's goal of increasing access to care.

In addition to increased provider reimbursement rates, CDA advocated for a student loan repayment program funded by Proposition 56 revenue. To date, thirty-eight dentists statewide are benefitting from this program. The student loan program pays \$300,000 over five years after verified service to a minimum of 30% Medi-Cal Dental beneficiaries. The next application period for this program opens in January 2020. Dentists that have graduated within the last five years can find more information at www.calhealthcares.org. Advocates are hopeful the program will receive more applicants from rural counties and those with few Medi-Cal Dental providers. Another pathway to encourage providers to practice in needy counties is the Business Support Grant.

SB 154 (Pan) – Authorizes silver diamine fluoride as a Medi-Cal Dental benefit. This bill awaits action in Assembly fiscal committee in late August.

Sugar-sweetened beverages - Five bills aimed at reducing consumption of SSBs (sponsored or supported by CDA) were introduced in the legislature this year. All were defeated, but the issue will remain an ongoing priority.

9. 3:25 Children Now Update

Katie Andrew

No update – Katie Andrew on vacation.

10. 3:30 Every Smile Counts Update

Debra Payne

DTI recently completed the second quarter report. VDH partners are providing services at school locations throughout the summer. Two additional potential partners (Elica Health Centers and One Community Health) have expressed interest in collaborating to expand the VDH project. Elica Health Centers are undergoing change with the appointment of a new CEO and Dental Director. Elica is adding new clinic locations and has received funding from Bayside Church to expand their mobile health van program. DTI staff are scheduling meetings to discuss which pilots might fit for collaboration.

11. 3:35 Early Smiles - Center for Oral Health

Mira Yang

During school year 2018 – 2019, Early Smiles Sacramento (ESS) screened 21,359 children and provided 17,728 fluoride varnish treatments. Of the children screened, 9,358 were aged 0 – 5 years. ESS collaborated with Liberty Dental and Access Dental plans to provide screening, education, and fluoride varnish services at several Million Meals summer events and are gearing up for back-to-school projects. ESS staff noted many adults/parents in need of dental care during their outreach this summer.

12. 3:40 Agenda Items for August 1, 2019 MCDAC Meeting

All

13. 3:45 Other Items & Announcements

All

Bingaman: State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) trained thirty police officers on

developmental disabilities and substance abuse. SCDD also provides ongoing safety and risk-reduction training opportunities for parents, support staff, and self-advocates. Topics in this series include how to communicate effectively with the police, what to do during a crisis, and how to identify and report sexual assault.

Levering: SDDS Smiles for Kids (SFK) numbers for last year are way down, due to efforts of ESS. SFK “adopted” 200 children for free dental services in 2018 – 2019, fifty of them for orthodontic treatment. Dental provider volunteers were pleased that the no-show rate for this year’s “adoptees” was less than 10%. SDDS is now gearing up for SFK 2019 – 2020 and will focus on “working poor” – those without insurance or that cannot afford the co-payment. SDDS is setting up their annual meetings with school nurses on 8/28/19 and 9/12/19. The nurses meeting is a great opportunity to educate nurses about geographic managed care, oral health, navigation, etc. SDDS will work with the dental plans to coordinate educational presentation at these meetings.

Payne: The MCDAC presentation to the Board of Supervisors is postponed to September 10, 2019.

14. 4:00 Adjourn

Public comment may be given on any of the agenda items and before a vote.

Purpose: The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide oversight and guidance to improve Denti-Cal utilization rates, the delivery of oral health and dental care services, including prevention and education services, dental managed care and fee-for-service Denti-Cal.

Authority: AB 1467 (Budget Committee), Effective July 1, 2012; Sacramento County BOS, Dec 11, 2012, Resolution No. 2012-0903 establishing a Sacramento County Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee & Resolution No. 2012-0904 appointing the initial membership to the Advisory Committee.

For information about MCDAC, contact Jan Resler: 916-875-6259 or ReslerJ@saccounty.net