

**MINUTES**  
**CMSP GOVERNING BOARD**  
Thursday, April 2, 2020

Via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Patrick Blacklock, County Administrator, Yolo County  
Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator, Solano County  
Richard Egan, County Administrator, Lassen County  
Richard Forster, County Supervisor, Amador County  
Elizabeth Kelly, Director, Colusa County Human Services  
Leonard Moty, County Supervisor, Shasta County  
Jennifer Vasquez, Human Services Director, Yuba County  
Brad Wagenknecht, County Supervisor, Napa County  
Christine Zoppi, Health Director, Glenn County

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sanja Bugay, Health and Human Services Director, Kings County  
Brendan McCarthy, Assistant Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency

**Welcoming Remarks**

Brad Wagenknecht, Board Chair, opened the Open Session meeting. Kari Brownstein, Administrative Officer, called the roll of Governing Board members. Mr. Wagenknecht invited public comment. Alison Kellen, Program Manager, reported two public comments had been received via email prior to the start of the meeting and she read the comments aloud.

The first public comment came from David Kane, Staff Attorney, Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP). In this comment, WCLP encourages the Governing Board to do all of the following:

- Ensure that health care services are available during the COVID-19 emergency;
- Relax application and verification requirements, and all self-attestation;
- Accept applications by phone;
- Make sure all applications are processed timely;
- Suspend 6-month renewals to prevent lapses in coverage;
- Extend the current CMSP retroactive eligibility period to more than one month;
- Provide a “no-wrong door” access to health care;
- Set up and allow for emergency telemedicine procedures;
- Provide clear messages to immigrant communities (i.e. those on restricted scope programs for CMSP and Path to Health) that these are not counted under the public charge rule); and,

- Schedule a conference call with CMSP staff to discuss these matters.

The second public comment came from Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Health Access California. In this comment, Mr. Wright recommended that CMSP has a crucial role to play in making sure Californians have the access to health care they need. He asked several questions:

- What is the status of CMSP and Path to Health enrollment?
- How is CMSP working with county public health departments to provide information on where to get health services?
- What is the direction being given in CMSP counties for those without a regular doctor?
- How is CMSP facilitating telemedicine services?
- Could CMSP waive other enrollment barriers, such as removing the asset test and raising the income level (presently at 300% FPL)?
- What messaging is CMSP providing regarding undocumented immigrants, their need to seek the care they need, and their concerns about public charge regulations?

Mr. Wagenknecht stated that he expected many of these comments and questions to be addressed as the Board continued its meeting.

### **Correspondence and Consent Calendar**

Mr. Wagenknecht requested a motion on the Correspondence and Consent Calendar, which includes Governing Board meeting minutes of February 13, 2020, and the CMSP Executive Committee meeting of March 26, 2020.

ACTION MSC: Approve the Correspondence and Consent Calendar for April 2, 2020.

APPROVED	Votes:	Aye	9
		Nay	0

### **COVID-19**

Mr. Wagenknecht asked CMSP staff to make their presentations on the following matters pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Proposed Resolution Declaring a Local Emergency, Ratifying Action of the Executive Committee and Authorizing the Executive Committee to Take Actions Related to the Outbreak of Coronavirus (“COVID-19”)

Kari Brownstein, Administrative Officer, introduced the item and asked Cathy Salenko, CMSP General Counsel, to brief the Board on the proposed resolution. Discussion among Board members ensued.

ACTION MSC: Approve the proposed resolution.

APPROVED	Votes:	Aye	9
		Nay	0

2. Proposed COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant (CERG) Program

A. Proposed CERG Request for Applications

Ms. Brownstein briefed the Board on the proposed CERG Program, which would provide emergency COVID-19 funding for CMSP counties to carry out a variety of emergency response and remediation activities, including purchasing personal protection equipment (PPE), healthcare equipment, and supplies; providing supportive quarantine services; engaging public employees needed for emergency response; engaging non-profit human services providers needed for emergency response, and; conducting public education, information and outreach. The total proposed allocation for the grant program is just over \$10 million, and proposed allocation amounts are based on county population size with no county allocation less than \$25,000.

Mr. Wagenknecht asked for any public comment. Ms. Kellen reported that Shadi Barfjani, MD, with the Plumas County Public Health Department, submitted a question pertaining to whether CMSP grant funds can be used for alternative housing for homeless populations? Ms. Kellen stated the answer to the question is yes, the proposed CERG program includes “supportive quarantine services” which include such things as hotel vouchers, rent coverage, food, and personal hygiene supplies for uninsured or underserved populations.

Christine Zoppi, Board Member, asked if grant funds could be used to cover expenses associated with construction of temporary health care facilities. Ms. Salenko stated the answer to the question is yes, although it is anticipated that FEMA disaster funding would likely support this type of expense.

Discussion ensued on the relative availability of FEMA funding to counties of varying sizes, the timeframe for receipt of such funding, and the need for flexible funding that counties could use presently to address immediate needs. Patrick Blacklock, Board Member, and Birgitta Corsello, Board Member, both commended the CMSP staff team for quickly developing program proposals to assist CMSP counties address the COVID-19 emergency. Ms. Corsello also asked if the dollar amount proposed for counties with populations under 50,000 would be enough.

Discussion ensued on the amounts that should be made available to counties. Richard Egan, Board Member, said Lassen County is experiencing the same set of dynamics as larger counties in setting things up, and there are certain fixed costs for staging, mobilizing, and getting things ready. While the proposed funding amounts are significant, they're not that significant in light of the activities counties are required to carry out in preparation for COVID-19 disease transmission.

Ms. Zoppi said Glenn County is small and the proposed funds would definitely help county departments with cash flow and other costs they're not sure how to fund, although she wasn't sure about the adequacy of the proposed amounts.

Further discussion ensued. Ms. Corsello suggested that the maximum grant amount should be set at \$1 million and the minimum grant amount should be no less than \$100,000 for all counties. There was discussion about the importance of utilizing other funding sources first, such as FEMA disaster funding or other state and federal funds. Lee Kemper, Policy and Planning Consultant, stated that the grant program provides for counties to propose their service and expenditure plan in the application and then, at the six-month point, prepare a revised service and expenditure plan based on what they know and understand at that later time. Mr. Kemper also stated that the grant requires counties to coordinate this grant funding with funding received from other sources.

A question was raised about whether CERG grant funding would only be available to counties, or would it also be provided to health care providers. Ms. Kellen stated that the grants would be made only to counties, but counties could subcontract with other organizations to receive services and support.

ACTION MSC: Governing Board take the following action:

- Approve the Proposed CERG Program Request for Applications (RFA);
- Authorize the Administrative Officer, with consultation of the Board Chair, to fund counties up to the amount in Appendix A of the CERG RFA, with a maximum allocation of \$1 million per county and a minimum allocation of \$100,000 per county;
- Delegate to the Executive Committee all other necessary actions related to the CERG RFA during the COVID-19 Emergency response period; and,
- Postpone release of the Local Indigent Care Needs (LICN) Program Round 2 scheduled for May 2020 to a future date in the fall of 2020.

APPROVED	Votes:	Aye	9
		Nay	0

B. Proposed CERG Grant Agreement

ACTION MSC: Governing Board approve the draft CERG Program Agreement and authorize the Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the General Counsel, to finalize terms of the Agreement and execute these Agreements with participating CMSP counties.

APPROVED	Votes:	Aye	9
		Nay	0

C. Proposed COVID-19 Bridge Loans for Contracting Community Health Centers

Ms. Brownstein briefed the Board on a proposed bridge loan program, which would provide community health centers (FQHC, RHC, and Tribal Health Programs) that contract with the Governing Board to receive loans from the Governing Board in amounts between \$10,000 and \$300,000 to assist with health center cash flow during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Salenko further briefed the Board on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding, including describing the security interest required for the loan (i.e. revenue supporting the health center).

Discussion among Board members ensued. A question was raised about how participating providers would repay the loans, and whether amounts provided should be loans, forgivable loans, or grants. Ms. Salenko stated that the MOU did not specify how the loans would be repaid or from what sources. Mr. Kemper stated that there are many changes underway with recent Medi-Cal waivers that could impact health center revenues, and that the loans are designed to provide interim assistance with cash flow. At a future time, based on experience through the pandemic, the Board could make a determination about whether to forgive the loans in some amount. Ms. Kellen reported there was no public comment received on this proposal.

ACTION MSC: Governing Board take the following actions:

- Approve the proposed Bridge Loan Memorandum of Understanding and Loan Agreement;
- Authorize the Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Board Chair and the CMSP General Counsel, to enter into bridge loans with contracted Community Health Centers; and,
- Delegate to the Executive Committee all other necessary actions necessary related to the bridge loans to community health centers during the COVID-19 Emergency response period.

APPROVED	Votes:	Aye	9
		Nay	0

**May Governing Board Meeting**

Ms. Brownstein reported that the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Legislative Conference, originally scheduled at a time that conflicted with the Governing Board's May meeting, has since been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this cancellation, Ms. Brownstein asked Board members to consider changing the start time of the Governing Board's May 27, 2020 meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

ACTION MSC: Approve change in meeting time of the Governing Board's May 27, 2020 meeting to 10:30 a.m.

APPROVED	Votes:	Aye	9
		Nay	0

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Wagenknecht asked for any additional public comment. Alison Kellen reported that no additional public comments had been submitted.

Ms. Corsello asked staff to look at the public comments to identify what, if any, of the requested changes could be addressed, and report back to the Executive Committee. Mr. Wagenknecht said he thought many of the matters raised in public comments had already been addressed by CMSP staff in prior actions and asked staff to work with stakeholders to further discuss these matters. He also expressed thanks to the CMSP staff for their quick efforts to develop proposed programs and strategies to help CMSP counties respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next Board meeting is May 27, 2020.