

CMSP PLANNING & BENEFITS COMMITTEE
February 10, 2021
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sara Bosse, Madera County Public Health Department
Donnell Ewert, Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency
Jerry Huber, Solano County Health and Social Services Department
Noe Paramo, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Homer Rice, Yuba County Health and Social Services Department
Liza Thantranon, Legal Services of Northern California
Christine Zoppi, Glenn County Health and Human Services

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Christine Zoppi, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order via Zoom and conducted Roll Call. Committee members introduced themselves, provided a brief summary of their background and shared what compels each of them to serve on the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Zoppi called for public comments. Dr. Srikanth Kolli D.C., chiropractor at Ampla Health, requested that chiropractors be added to the list of eligible providers for CMSP’s educational loan repayment programs. Dr. Kolli spoke to the benefits of chiropractic care to as a non-invasive alternative to opioid pain medications. Ampla Health has four (4) full-time chiropractors and two (2) contracted chiropractors. The average student loan debt for these six chiropractors is \$356,000.

COMMITTEE ROSTER

Alison Kellen, Program Manager, shared that the CMSP Governing Board approved the Committee Roster. She expressed appreciation for the county representatives’ willingness to continue to serve on the Committee and welcomed the new members. Ms. Zoppi will continue to serve as the Committee’s Chairperson. Sara Bosse requested the spelling of her name be corrected on the roster from Sarah to Sara.

MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes from the July 31, 2019 meeting, with the abstentions.

APPROVED

Votes: Aye 5

Nay 0

Abstain 2 (Huber and Thantranon)

REVIEW OF COVERED BENEFITS

Ms. Zoppi reminded the Committee that historically CMSP’s benefit package has not exceeded the services covered under Medi-Cal or Covered California.

Ms. Kellen, Program Manager, provided a historical overview of covered benefits and the public hearing process. She reminded the Committee that any expansion of benefits or reduction of benefits under CMSP benefit programs requires action by the Governing Board. Ms. Kellen walked the Committee through the benefits covered under the standard County Medical Services Program (CMSP), Path to Health Pilot Project, and Connect to Care. Additionally, Ms. Kellen provided background on excluded benefits including chiropractic services, behavioral health counseling services, and substance abuse counseling services. She referenced the California Health Care Foundation's February 2019 report entitled "Medi-Cal and Behavioral Health Services" which summarizes the Medi-Cal Mental Health Delivery System and the division of responsibilities between the managed care plans, Fee-for-Service Medi-Cal, and County Mental Health Plans. Finally, she outlined a series of policy questions for the Committee's review including:

1. Should benefit expansions be considered for any CMSP benefit programs?
 - a. Who is the target population for the service expansions?
 - b. What is the expected outcome/impact for the service expansions?
 - c. How will the relative effectiveness of the new services be measured?
2. Which CMSP benefit program or programs should include such new services?
 - a. Should there be any distinction between services under the Standard CMSP benefit program (both non-SOC and SOC) and the Connect to Care program and Path to Health pilot project, which provide primary care and prescription drug benefit services only.
3. What should the scope of such services be for each affected program?
4. Should there be any member share of cost or copayment for the new services?
5. Should there be limits on the provision of such services, including but not limited to:
 - a. Number of visits per month or per eligibility term;
 - b. Eligible and ineligible providers of such services;
 - c. Designation of specific providers that may provide services; and,
 - d. Prior authorization approvals from the benefits administrator (AMM).
6. What payment rate should be paid for such services?

An active discussion ensued amongst the Committee members as each Committee member voiced the coverage areas they'd like further research on. Ms. Bosse identified mental health services, optometry services and expanded dental services. Donnell Ewert selected mental health counseling services and substance abuse treatment services including outpatient, residential and methadone. Jerry Huber identified mental health, substance abuse and chiropractic services. He also wanted to make sure that equity was factored into all efforts. Homer Rice advised the Committee that he had a scheduling conflict and will drop off the meeting at 11:00 AM. Mr. Rice also spoke to the need in Yuba County for substance abuse treatment specific to methamphetamine abuse. He was also supportive in exploring

chiropractic care as a pain management approach. Noe Paramo supported the expansion of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and dispelling myths and stigmas for seeking care. Mr. Paramo spoke to the need for dental and vision services within the Connect to Care and Path to Health programs. Liza Thantranon advised that access to mental health services and substance abuse treatment services are both huge needs she sees when working with clients. She was also supportive of exploring pain management options.

Additional discussion ensued. Ms. Bosse summarized the commonly shared themes. Ms. Zoppi then directed CMSP staff to conduct further research on the following items for discussion at the Committee's next meeting:

- 1) Mental health services for mild to moderate diagnoses with a goal to strive towards parity and think forward towards prevention.
- 2) Substance abuse (opioid and methamphetamine) treatment services
- 3) Limited scope chiropractic services as a pain-management approach.
- 4) Optometry and eye appliances.

Ms. Kari Brownstein, Administrative Officer, circled back to the policy questions discussed earlier and stated that CMSP staff can bring back payment rate concepts to the Committee for review and consideration.

CONNECT TO CARE UPDATE

Ms. Brownstein informed the Committee that CMSP membership is under 1,000 and Path to Health membership is over 10,000. In December, the Connect to Care program started with one clinic and is currently expanding out to a total of 23 health center organizations with 95 locations in 20 counties. Ms. Brownstein was optimistic that the membership in the Connect to Care program could reach the same level as Path to Health. She provided an overview of the Connect to Care enrollment system and discussed the similarities and differences of the new program to both CMSP and the Path to Health pilot.

MARCH 2021 MEETING ITEMS

Ms. Zoppi reviewed the agenda items for the next Committee meeting. The Committee members were excited to learn more about the grants and loan repayment programs. Specifically, Committee members requested data on the impact of the loan repayment programs as well as information on grant projects working on whole person care and mobile health clinics.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Zoppi called for final public comments and there were none.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM.