

**CMSP PLANNING & BENEFITS COMMITTEE**  
**March 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 *\*joined after Roll Call*  
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 in attendance introduced themselves. Homer Rice advised that he will need to leave the meeting at 11:00 AM and will rejoin the meeting. Jerry Huber advised that he will need to leave at 12:00 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Zoppi called for public comments. Dr. Srikanth Kolli D.C., chiropractor at Ampla Health, who spoke at the last Committee meeting, shared his thoughts about the importance of chiropractic care as a non-invasive modality to address pain-related conditions.

Liza Thantranon joined the meeting and introduced herself.

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee approved the minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting.

APPROVED

Votes: Aye 7

Nay 0

**COVERED BENEFITS**

*Chiropractic Services*

Alison Kellen, Program Manager, walked the Committee through the proposed structure for a limited chiropractic benefit for the standard CMSP program. The proposed benefit would be limited to 2 visits per calendar month unless additional visits were authorized, which is consistent with Medi-Cal's policy. Services would need to be billed in conjunction with specific diagnosis codes allowable under Medi-Cal and maintenance therapy would not be covered. Discussion ensued about whether or not spinal manipulations were within the scope of practice for a Medical Doctor (MD). Jerry Huber was interested in learning how many clinics include

chiropractic services at their clinics. The Committee requested CMSP staff conduct an inventory of contracted clinics and whether or not they offered chiropractic services. A motion was made to recommend to the CMSP Governing Board that a limited chiropractic benefit be included in the standard CMSP program.

APPROVED

Votes: Aye 7  
Nay 0

*Mental Health (Mild to Moderate)*

Ms. Kellen provided overview of the proposed coverage for individual and group counseling visit for standard CMSP benefit (12 visits) and Connect to Care program (6 visits) to address mild to moderate severity mental health conditions. Committee members shared challenges recruiting mental health professionals and requested that CMSP staff research if Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) could be added as an allowable billing provider. Sara Bosse raised the question as to whether or not family and/or couples counseling could be included especially in light of stress the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on families.

A motion was made to recommend to the CMSP Governing Board that limited mental health counseling services for mild to moderate diagnoses be included in the standard CMSP and Connect to Care benefit packages.

APPROVED

Votes: Aye 7  
Nay 0

*Outpatient Substance Abuse Services*

Ms. Kellen presented the proposed outpatient substance use disorder treatment services for the standard CMSP benefit (12 visits) and Connect to Care program (6 visits). Donnell Ewart spoke to the benefits in his county of residential treatment and intensive outpatient treatment. He advised that Shasta County is using a substance abuse block grant to pay Partnership Health Plan to manage services for clients not enrolled in Medi-Cal. Mr. Lee Kemper advised that residential treatment services would require a great deal of infrastructure to manage care and develop a network of providers. Ms. Zoppi spoke to capacity issues within small, rural counties to provider SUDT services. Mr. Huber recommended that the Committee move forward with the staff recommendation but conduct further research on the continuum of options including residential treatment and intensive outpatient treatment.

A motion was made to recommend to the CMSP Governing Board that limited outpatient substance use disorder treatment be included in the standard CMSP and Connect to Care benefit packages.

APPROVED

Votes: Aye 7  
Nay 0

*Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) and Methadone Replacement Therapy*

Ms. Kellen advised that there isn't staff recommendation about MAT as further investigation is needed by CMSP staff on whether or not CMSP's current Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) has the capacity to administer prescription drugs for treatment of alcohol and opioid use disorders, what kind of prior-authorization requirements would be needed, and what kind of

monitoring would be required by the PBM or the Board's current Third-Party Administrator (TPA).

*Optometry Services and Eye Appliances*

Ms. Kellen advised that there is also no recommendation at this time. Further investigation is needed by CMSP staff on whether or not CMSP's current TPA has the capacity to administer both a routine eye exam benefit and an eyeglass frame and lenses benefit, and what would be required for provider network development.

**HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Laura Moyer, Program Analyst, reported on CMSP's Allied Health Loan Repayment Program (AHLRP) and the CMSP Loan Repayment Program (CMSP LRP) which are both funded by CMSP and administered through the Office of Statewide Health Planning (OSHPD). To date, there have been 108 awardees totaling \$1,240,000. There are thirty-four (34) eligible allied health professions that can receive awards up to \$16,000. Awardees can receive awards up to 3 times. Under the CMSP LRP, seven (7) awardable professions can receive awards up to \$25,000 for part-time and \$50,000 for full-time employment. In its first 4 cycles, CMSP LRP awarded 143 applicants a collective total of \$4,958,463. Ms. Moyer reported that the program recently closed its fifth and final application cycle on March 4, 2021. OSHPD staff are working to finalize funding recommendations. She shared two stories from health professionals that have received loan repayment support from these programs and the positive impact the financial relief has had on them.

Homer Rice left the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Ms. Moyer advised that after the current fiscal year, there are no more rounds of loan repayment for AHLRP or CMSP LRP. Today, the Committee is asked to consider extending the current programs administered through OSHPD for an additional three (3) years through June 2025 at the current level of spending (up to \$500,000 for AHLRP per fiscal year and up to \$2 Million per year for CMSP LRP *excluding* OSHPD administrative expenses). Additionally, it is recommended that the Committee consider adding Chiropractors to the AHLRP if their services are added as a CMSP covered benefit.

The Committee had questions about why nurses were not included in the loan repayment programs and whether CMSP should include additional behavioral health professions. Ms. Moyer cited the availability of non-CMSP funded loan repayment programs including the Licensed Mental Health Provider Education Program (LMH), State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) that includes \$1million specifically for mental health professions, and the National Health Service Corp SUD Loan Repayment Program (NHSC). She will follow up on the competitiveness of these other programs and whether or not awardees are being funded in CMSP counties. Additionally, OSHPD administers programs specific to nursing professionals. Ms. Bosse requested that additional CMSP outreach materials about CMSP's loan repayment programs include references to other available loan repayment programs.

A recommendation was made to extend the CMSP AHLRP and CMSP LRP and additional three years and add Chiropractors as an eligible profession under the CMSP AHLRP.

APPROVED

Votes: Aye 6  
Nay 0

### **UPDATE ON GRANTING EFFORTS**

Anna Allard, Grants Manager, provided an overview of CMSP's Local Indigent Care Needs (LICN) Grant. Planning project grants were funded up to \$50,000 for 12-months. Implementation grants received up to \$1,500,000 over 3 years. Due to COVID-19, grantees could start their projects in the Spring, Summer or Fall of 2020. Ms. Allard reported that the LICN grant currently funds two projects that support a mobile clinic (Shasta Community Health Center and Humboldt County Mobile Health). Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, both projects have delayed their purchase or use at this time. Additionally, Ms. Allard reported that LICN funds 6 separate projects that provide Whole Person Care services, all of which are active FQHCs or health clinics. She highlighted two LICN projects: CommuniCare Health Centers in Yolo County's project to assist community members recently released from jail and Yuba County's safe shelter for homeless individuals.

Ms. Allard reported that the Governing Board released the COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant (CERG) in April 2020 to be responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERG program designated \$10,145,976 to provide emergency COVID-19 funding for CMSP counties. She reported that 31 out of 35 CMSP counties were awarded grants. The projects are twelve (12) months long and there are six (6) different start dates. She stated that the largest need amongst the projects was for supportive quarantine services. Ms. Allard highlighted two CERG projects: Sutter County's partnership with Yuba County and Univision for an educational outreach campaign targeted to Hispanic audiences and Sonoma County's efforts to provide supportive quarantine services.

Ms. Moyer advised the Committee that In May 2016, The Governing Board approved the Wellness and Prevention (W&P) Pilot Project. Thirty-one counties were awarded a total of \$6,895,141. Two counties prematurely ended their contract. Ms. Moyer stated that all projects have completed activities as of December 31, 2020 and extension awardees are in the process of completing final project evaluation and reports. Of the 17 projects that have filed their final report, a total of 29,795 individuals were directly reached by project staff. She provided a report on Humboldt County's efforts to improve provider capacity, identify and treat hepatitis C (HCV), and address behavioral health issues including addiction and overdose.

Ms. Moyer reported on the Health Systems Development Grant (HSG) Program. Under this grant established in May 2018, 23 participating counties or non-profit organizations were collectively awarded \$6,857,261. She noted that one HSG project supports the use of a mobile clinic but due to COVID-19 restrictions, they have opted to transport patients directly to health care services rather than utilize the mobile clinic. She highlighted two HSG projects: Santa Rosa Community Health's efforts to address dental access for homeless clients and Tehama County Health Services efforts to expand access to behavioral health services.

Homer Rice rejoined the meeting at 11:28 AM.

Ms. Kellen provided an overview of the Governing Board's specialty access grants. Champions for Health received a planning grant to assess the need and capacity in Imperial County. Their

planning grant started July 2020 and Champions for Health will provide a final report to the Governing Board at their March meeting. Operation Access received a five-year grant totaling \$5,700,000 to expand their donated care model to additional CMSP counties.

**PATH TO HEALTH UPDATE**

Kari Brownstein, Administrative Officer presented an update on the Path to Health Pilot Project enrollment, clinic participation and evaluation efforts. She reminded Committee members that the Pilot began in February 2019 and UCLA to present final evaluation in May 2021. As of March 2, 2021, enrollment is 10,430 members. Enrollment & care currently provided at 22 community health center systems with 100 locations in 21 counties.

**SCHEDULING OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING(S)**

Ms. Brownstein stated that the items approved today by the Committee will go before the Governing Board at their March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee decided to meet again on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Zoppi called for final public comments and Dr. Kolli questioned why CMSP planned to include chiropractors in the CMSP Allied Health Loan Repayment Program instead of the CMSP Loan Repayment Program. He felt that the comparison of chiropractors to physical therapists was not accurate. He expressed his love for serving his community and voiced that he learned so much through this process of advocating for chiropractic care.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2021 at 3:00 PM.