

**COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM (CMSP)  
ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**February 7, 2018  
1545 River Park Drive, Suite 435-A  
Sacramento, CA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Elliott Smart, Plumas County Department of Social Services, CHAIR  
Lisa Fletcher, Tuolumne County Department of Social Services  
Laurel Johnson, Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services  
Dawn Moore, Sonoma County Department of Human Services  
Stuart Smith, Marin County Health & Human Services Agency

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rosa Vivian Fernandez, San Benito Health Foundation  
Anthony Wright, Health Access California

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Elliott Smart called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2016 meeting.

**CMSP ELIGIBILITY ADMINISTRATION**

Reports on CMSP enrollment were distributed to the meeting attendees. Alison Kellen informed the Committee that CMSP All County Letter (ACL) 17-03 was released in December 2017 to provide updated language to the CMSP Supplemental Application regarding documentation of property/possessions. Kari Brownstein advised that CMSP ACL 17-04 was released in December 2017 regarding FY 2016-17 CMSP Eligibility Allocations.

Ms. Brownstein provided background on Napa County's recently approved CMSP Mini Grant to support CMSP enrollment. The project is focused on supporting development and maintenance of local CMSP eligibility administration expertise through an expanded role of a dedicated part-time CMSP eligibility staff person to provide CMSP eligibility assistance to applicants and to provide support and health care navigation services to CMSP enrollees. Felicia Jennings, Napa County, shared information about how Napa County is using one Eligibility Worker to process all CMSP applications and is working collaboratively with Alcohol and Drug services within the county.

Discussion ensued and other county representatives shared how their counties are processing CMSP applications and are finding the need to keep the processing of non-MAGI Medi-Cal applications top of mind for eligibility workers.

The Committee recommended that CMSP staff reach out to counties to obtain counties' best practices, training curriculum, and quarterly staff reminders about CMSP.

### **CHANGES TO THE DESIGNATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEDI-CAL AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (MEDI-CAL ACWDL 17-2)**

The California State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released Medi-Cal All County Welfare Director Letter (ACWDL) 17-2 in March 2017, providing instructions to counties about the appointment and scope of responsibilities of authorized representatives for Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries. The Committee discussed whether or not the CMSP Eligibility Manual required any modifications to address Medi-Cal definition and duration of an Authorized Representative. There was general consensus amongst the Committee members to better align with Medi-Cal related to Authorized Representatives. The Committee requested that the ad hoc eligibility resources workgroup review the current CMSP Eligibility Manual and bring back updated language for the Committee's review.

### **CMSP PILOT PROJECT UPDATES**

Ms. Brownstein reminded the Committee that the Governing Board approved a 2-year Primary Care Benefit (PCB) pilot project to expand access to no-cost and low-cost primary and preventive health care services for CMSP enrollees in share of cost (SOC) aid codes (89 and 50). The benefit was implemented in May 2016.

To date, despite repeated PCB trainings and outreach to providers and counties on the benefit program, and outreach by Advanced Medical Management (AMM) to CMSP enrollees, participation in the PCB has been small and has shown limited penetration in any CMSP county. In assessing barriers to participation certain aspects of the program design have been identified:

- Use of a separate PCB Identification Card and PCB ID number;
- Use of a reservation system administered by AMM to approve and track PCB covered medical office visits; and,
- Lack of awareness among CMSP enrollees and CMSP providers about the PCB and how to access it.

Four options were identified to the CMSP Planning & Benefits Committee on January 31, 2018 for addressing the deficiencies of the PCB. These include terminating the PCB benefit because of low enrollee participation; further expanding outreach and follow up with CMSP enrollees to engage enrollees in the PCB; streamlining the PCB office visit reservation process; and, incorporating the PCB into the Standard CMSP Benefit without a share of cost (SOC).

Ms. Brownstein said that the Planning & Benefits Committee asked staff to follow up with counties regarding barriers to the application and enrollment in the Primary Care Benefit prior to the Committee's next meeting on March 8, 2018.

County representatives at the Eligibility Committee meeting shared the following thoughts:

- Back log of eligibility cases at the county-level creates a barrier to enrollment.
- Covered California's open enrollment periods create a wave of Medi-Cal cases.
- Several counties are contending with staffing challenges and retirements.

- The chronically uninsured are not focused on primary care services and can already obtain \$4 prescriptions through Walmart.

Ms. Kellen reported on the status of CMSP's Loan Repayment Program (CMSP LRP) in CMSP counties. In 2017, 27 applicants were awarded loan repayments of up to \$50,000 in exchange for a two-year service obligation providing direct patient care at a qualifying, CMSP-contracted provider location. The 2017 CMSP LRP award totaled \$1,000,000 to providers within the following 14 counties: Butte (1), El Dorado (1), Imperial (2), Inyo (1), Kings (1), Marin (4), Modoc (1), Mono (1), Napa (1), Nevada (1), Shasta (3), Solano (1), Sonoma (8), and Yolo (1).

Ms. Kellen advised that the second CMSP LRP funding cycle opened on January 30, 2018 and will close on March 30, 2018. Dentists have been added to the list of eligible practitioners. Stakeholders and contracted providers have been notified about the availability of funding.

Additionally, Ms. Kellen advised that twenty applications were awarded for the first cycle of the CMSP Allied Healthcare Loan Repayment Program (AHLRP) with awards totaling over \$200,000. The awardees serve 9 CMSP counties and individual award amounts ranged from \$3,000 to \$16,000. The Health Professions Education Foundation staff is currently working to finalize the funding recommendations for the second CMSP AHLRP cycle. Notifications of awards for the second CMSP AHLRP cycle are expected to go out mid-February 2018.

Ms. Kellen provided an overview of the Health Systems Development Mini Grants program, approved by the Governing Board on May 26, 2016. The purpose of the Mini Grants program is to assist healthcare providers in CMSP counties address barriers to collaboration and inadequate system linkages that hamper timely and effective delivery of health care services to CMSP and other publicly funded populations. The program provides one-time funding up to \$20,000 for development of health systems linkages across the health and behavioral health systems serving CMSP and other publicly funded populations. Total funding approved by the Governing Board for the program is \$600,000.

A first round of Mini Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) was conducted, and proposals were due December 2016. Five proposals received funding during the first round. A second round of Mini Grants RFP was completed, and proposals were due July 2017. An additional six proposals received funding during the second funding round. These short-term projects are slated to conclude in March 2018 (Round 1) and August 2018 (Round 2).

Finally, Ms. Kellen advised that thirty-one CMSP counties are participating in the County Wellness & Prevention Pilot Projects funded by the Governing Board. The 31 approved county pilot projects address three project areas: Community Wellness, Whole Person Care, and Addressing the Social Determinants of Health. \$6,895,141 was awarded for the three-year effort that will conclude in December 2020.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Committee decided to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 1:30 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

MJ Flores, Health Access advised that Health Access sent a letter to CMSP to expand the Primary Care Benefit to those enrolled in restricted-scope Medi-Cal with incomes under 138% FPL, absent of a policy solution at the state level.

Jen Flory, Western Center of Law and Poverty, encouraged CMSP to consider expanding CMSP's Primary Care Benefits to county residents on emergency-services only Medi-Cal.