

CMSP GOVERNING BOARD

September 24, 2025
In-Person and via Zoom
9:30 a.m.

Governing Board Conference Room
1545 River Park Drive, Suite 435-A
Sacramento, CA 95815

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Vasquez, Supervisor, Solano County (in-person)
Jennifer Vasquez, Director, Health & Human Services, Yuba County (in-person)
Ed Valenzuela, Supervisor, Siskiyou County (in-person)
Scott De Moss, County Administrative Officer, Glenn County (in-person)
Elishia Hayes, County Administrative Officer, Humboldt County (in-person)
Elizabeth Kelly, Director, Health & Human Services, Colusa County (remote)
Deborah Martinez, Director, Department of Social Services, Madera County (remote)
Mike Ziegenmeyer, Supervisor, Sutter County (remote)
Jennifer Yasumoto, Director, Health & Human Services, Napa County (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christina Rivera, County Administrator, Sonoma County

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board met in Closed Session.

Note: Board Member Elishia Hayes attended the meeting in-person but was not present during Closed Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Introductions and Public Comments

Board Chair John Vasquez opened the meeting and invited Governing Board Members participating in the conference room to introduce themselves, followed by those attending remotely.

Chair Vasquez then opened the floor for public comment.

ACA, CMSP enrollment exceeded 80,000 members, most of whom were covered under the CMSP Low Income Health Program (LIHP), which allowed for early implementation of the Medi-Cal expansion with 50% federal matching funds. Following the ACA's full implementation, CMSP enrollment declined substantially, and since 2014, combined enrollment in CMSP, Connect to Care, and Path to Health programs has not exceeded 20,000 members.

Ms. Brownstein reviewed the various program and policy changes enacted by the Governing Board since 2014 to expand access for the remaining uninsured, including the creation of new benefit programs (Path to Health and Connect to Care), the elimination of county participation fees, expanded eligibility and benefits, and the introduction of multiple grant and healthcare workforce initiatives to strengthen local health infrastructure.

Turning to forthcoming policy developments, Ms. Brownstein presented a series of slides comparing CMSP programs, revenues, and expenditures before and after the ACA and outlining anticipated impacts from recent legislative and federal actions. She highlighted provisions in the State's FY 2025–26 Budget Act and in federal legislation (H.R.1) that are expected to reduce Medi-Cal and Covered California enrollment and increase the number of uninsured Californians. She noted that the combined effect of these changes could result in significant increases in the number of individuals seeking care through county systems.

Ms. Brownstein also summarized staff's high-level estimates of the potential population impacts across CMSP counties based on available state data. She explained that while some changes – such as elimination of DACA eligibility in Covered California and reinstatement of Medi-Cal asset limits – are not expected to substantially affect CMSP counties, other provisions such as the implementation of mandatory work requirements in FY 2026–27 could reasonably result in 73,000 or more CMSP county residents seeking healthcare services.

Board discussion followed, and members reviewed the slides illustrating historical enrollment and expenditures, key program and eligibility changes, benefit enhancements, and grant program expansions.

Chair Vasquez thanked Ms. Brownstein for the presentation and opened the floor for questions or comments. There were no further questions.

Report from Legislative Representative

Karen Lange of Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL) joined the meeting in person to provide an update on recent state legislative activity and matters affecting CMSP counties.

Ms. Lange reported that the California Legislature adjourned the 2025 session on Saturday, September 13, after extending proceedings by one day to resolve several high-priority budget and policy items. Among the most significant actions completed before adjournment were a 15-year renewal of the State's cap-and-trade authorization, which included dedicated funding for high-speed rail and wildfire prevention, and legislation to regionalize California's electricity grid to improve reliability and facilitate energy distribution among western states. She also noted that additional funding was approved to support grid expansion in rural areas where limited capacity has constrained new development.

Ms. Lange discussed the Legislature's actions to stabilize the State's wildfire insurance fund, which was created following major wildfires in recent years to protect insurers and utilities from insolvency. She explained that the fund is at risk of depletion due to the ongoing Eaton Fire in Southern California and that lawmakers approved an \$18 billion infusion – half funded directly by ratepayers and half by utilities – to maintain solvency.

Ms. Lange further reported that lawmakers did not reach agreement on measures to prevent the potential closure of two Valero oil refineries, an issue expected to return in a special session given the potential statewide impact on fuel supply and pricing. She noted that approximately 750 bills were sent to the Governor for consideration, with actions required by October 12, 2025.

Ms. Lange highlighted Senate Bill 105, which includes funding to support implementation of federal legislation H.R.1, particularly in the areas of CalFresh and Medi-Cal administration. The bill provides resources for staffing and systems development at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to prepare for the operational changes expected to take effect in January 2027.

Turning to legislative leadership changes, Ms. Lange informed the Board that Senator Mike McGuire, current President pro Tempore of the California State Senate, is expected to be succeeded by Senator Monique Limón (Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties) beginning in 2026. Ms. Lange noted that Senator Christopher Cabaldon is anticipated to become Chair of the Senate Budget Committee and represents only CMSP counties. In the Assembly, no major leadership changes are expected, and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, who serves as Majority Leader, continues to represent CMSP counties.

Ms. Lange also provided updates on human services funding discussions, explaining that the 2025–26 State Budget did not include new appropriations for the Homelessness and Housing Assistance Program (HHAP). However, unspent funds from prior-year allocations remain available, and legislative discussions are expected to continue in early 2026 to ensure continued funding for local programs showing measurable results.

She noted that uncertainty remains around potential federal amendments to H.R.1 and the State's corresponding budget adjustments. She also referenced the upcoming Proposition 50 measure and the Governor's development of the FY 2026–27 Budget – his final budget before leaving office -- which is expected to be shaped by both fiscal constraints and potential national political considerations.

In response to a question regarding recent hearings on H.R.1, Ms. Lange stated that the Assembly and Senate convened a joint informational session in August to review potential state impacts but that legislative direction remains unclear pending further federal guidance.

Following Ms. Lange's remarks, Executive Director Kari Brownstein reminded the Board that at its July 2025 meeting, the Governing Board delegated to the Executive Committee the authority to take any necessary actions between meetings related to state and federal changes impacting CMSP.

Chair Vasquez thanked Ms. Lange for her report.

Board Member Terms and Elections

Chair Vasquez introduced the item and invited Executive Director Kari Brownstein to present.

Ms. Brownstein reported that the terms of three Governing Board Members – Mike Ziegenmeyer (Supervisor, Sutter County), Christina Rivera (County Administrator, Sonoma County), and Jennifer Vasquez (Director, Health and Human Services, Yuba County) – will expire on December 31, 2025. She informed the Board that Ms. Rivera plans to retire early next year and will not seek reelection, while Ms. Vasquez has confirmed her intent to run for another term. Supervisor Ziegenmeyer also indicated his intention to seek reelection.

Ms. Brownstein recommended that the Governing Board direct its Legislative Representative, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, to conduct elections for the open Supervisor and County Administrator positions, and that the Executive Director conduct the election for the open County Health Official position.

Following discussion, the Board concurred with the recommendation.

ACTION MSC: Governing Board direct the Legislative Representative to conduct elections for the open Supervisor and County Administrator positions and direct the Executive Director to conduct the election for the open County Health Official position.

- Level 1: Counties with smaller uninsured populations or limited enrollment locations, featuring bilingual digital advertising.
- Level 2: Counties with moderate uninsured populations or enrollment sites, featuring bilingual digital ads, social media, radio, and carteles (small posters).
- Level 3: Counties with larger uninsured populations or multiple enrollment locations, featuring digital ads, social media, radio, carteles, print, and billboards.

She reported that since the campaign's summer launch, CMSP's marketing outreach has generated more than 37 million total impressions across media platforms, including billboard, radio, and digital advertising. The social media campaign, including Facebook and Instagram ads, produced approximately 2.2 million impressions and nearly 2,900 link clicks.

Ms. Rhodes also previewed upcoming campaign activities, including the launch of an online eligibility finder tool, available in English and Spanish, that allows potential applicants to perform a preliminary eligibility check anonymously. The tool does not collect personal data or use cookies and is designed to provide guidance for enrollment.

Board members expressed appreciation for the campaign's reach and discussed potential opportunities for expanded community outreach. Supervisor Ed Valenzuela suggested exploring advertising in public transportation settings, such as flyers or posters in local buses, to reach additional eligible populations. Ms. Rhodes agreed to explore that option with the campaign's media team.

Chair Vasquez thanked Ms. Kellen and Ms. Rhodes for their presentation.

CMSP Financial Reports

CMSP Balance Sheet

Finance Director Nino Celentano reported on the July and August 2025 financial statements.

The CMSP Balance Sheet shows:

ITEM	July 2025	August 2025
Total CMSP Funds	311,865,030	312,575,030
Total Assets	311,891,862	312,802,055
Total Liabilities and Equity	311,891,862	312,802,055

FY 2025-26 Program Budget Year-to-Date

Mr. Celentano presented the Program Budget actual versus budgeted revenues and expenditures for FY 2025–26 as of July 31, 2025, and August 31, 2025. As of July 31, 2025, expenditures totaled \$2,596,027 on a cash basis and \$975,518 on an accrual basis. As of August 31, 2025, expenditures totaled \$4,315,214 on a cash basis and \$2,278,724 on an accrual basis. The approved Program Budget for FY 2025–26 is \$27,866,000.

FY 2025-26 Administrative Office Budget Expenditures Year-to-Date

Mr. Celentano presented the Administrative Office actual versus budgeted expenditures for FY 2025–26 as of July 31, 2025, and August 31, 2025. As of July 31, 2025, expenditures totaled \$402,929 on an accrual basis. As of August 31, 2025, expenditures totaled \$621,512 on an accrual basis. The approved Administrative Office Budget for FY 2025–26 is \$5,302,000.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Kari Brownstein provided updates on the following items:

Third-Party Administrator (TPA) Request for Proposals (RFP)

Ms. Brownstein reported that the Governing Board released a Request for Proposals in April 2025 to solicit bids for Third-Party Administrator (TPA) services. The review panel has completed evaluation of all submissions and is conducting final due diligence. A recommendation for award of contract will be presented to the Governing Board at an upcoming meeting.

Grant Programs

Ms. Brownstein noted that award announcements for the most recent cycle of the Allied Health Loan Repayment Program are expected in the coming month. She confirmed that the Healthcare Scholarship Programs are currently open for applications, and that all seven Round 1 awardees of the Building the Healthcare Workforce Grant Program are active and have met with the Grants Administrator to initiate implementation.

CMSP in mCase / Enrollment Update

Ms. Kellen reported that CMSP continues to expand use of the mCase enrollment platform. CMSP staff recently hosted a webinar with enrollment sites and conducted polling to assess user experience. While several assisters reported high comfort with the

system, others requested additional training. CMSP staff will schedule further training sessions to ensure all enrollment partners are fully proficient in mCase.

Stakeholder Meetings

Ms. Brownstein provided an overview of recent and upcoming stakeholder engagement meetings, including presentations to the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) on August 6, the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) on August 13, and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) on August 13. She noted that Merced County expressed renewed interest in joining CMSP during the RCRC meeting. CMSP staff also met with representatives from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) eligibility branch, Covered California, and local health officers, with additional meetings scheduled with the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) on September 30 and the California Healthcare Districts Association on October 21.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Ms. Brownstein announced that CMSP staff will participate in the upcoming California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Annual Conference later this year. She also mentioned that Placer County has expressed preliminary interest in joining CMSP.

Chair Vasquez thanked Ms. Brownstein and Ms. Kellen for their updates.

Public Comments

Chair Vasquez opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Chair Vasquez adjourned the meeting at 11:33 am. The next regular Governing Board meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025.