

CMSP GOVERNING BOARD

December 17, 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

Jennifer Vasquez, Director, Health & Human Services, Yuba County (remote)
Elishia Hayes, County Administrative Officer, Humboldt County (remote)
Brent Houser, California Health & Human Services Agency (non-voting) (in-person)
Elizabeth Kelly, Director, Health & Human Services, Colusa County (remote)
Deborah Martinez, Director, Department of Social Services, Madera County (remote)
Christina Rivera, County Administrator, Sonoma County (remote)
Mike Ziegenmeyer, Supervisor, Sutter County (remote)
Jennifer Yasumoto, Director, Health & Human Services, Napa County (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Vasquez, Supervisor, Solano County
Scott De Moss, County Administrative Officer, Glenn County
Ed Valenzuela, Supervisor, Siskiyou County

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board met in Closed Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Introductions and Public Comments

Vice Chair Jennifer Vasquez presided over the meeting in the absence of Chair John Vasquez and confirmed that a quorum of the Governing Board was present. Vice Chair Vasquez opened the Public Session and invited Governing Board Members to introduce themselves, beginning with those attending in person and followed by those participating remotely.

Vice Chair Vasquez then opened the floor for public comment.

Federal Health Program Reductions and Implications

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

Executive Director Brownstein provided an overview of anticipated federal and state health policy changes and their potential implications for CMSP counties. She reviewed the history of CMSP before and after implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including the significant reduction in CMSP enrollment following the ACA's expansion of Medi-Cal and Covered California coverage, and the subsequent programmatic, eligibility, benefit, and grant initiatives adopted by the Governing Board since 2014 to address the remaining uninsured population.

Ms. Brownstein summarized key provisions of recent federal legislation and state budget actions that are expected to reduce Medi-Cal and Covered California enrollment beginning in FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27. She presented staff's high-level estimates of the potential number of individuals in CMSP counties who may lose coverage due to factors such as expiration of enhanced Covered California subsidies, Medi-Cal work requirements, and restrictions affecting lawfully present immigrants. She noted that, when fully implemented, these changes could result in a substantial increase in demand for county indigent health services, with estimated annual healthcare expenditures exceeding current CMSP resources without additional revenue.

Ms. Brownstein also reviewed the extensive eligibility, benefit, budget, and grant program changes previously approved by the Governing Board since the ACA, and outlined potential policy considerations the Board may need to evaluate in early 2026. These include possible adjustments to eligibility thresholds, benefits, enrollment terms, grant and workforce programs, and budget-related measures, as well as the statutory timing requirements and system implementation constraints associated with any future changes.

Board members engaged in discussion regarding the projected impacts to CMSP counties, the interaction between federal policy changes and county obligations under Welfare and Institutions Code section 17000, and the importance of advance planning given the time required to implement eligibility or benefit changes through state systems. Board members also discussed the need for additional analysis to understand the fiscal impacts of potential policy options and emphasized the importance of continued coordination with state and county partners.

Ms. Brownstein indicated that staff will continue monitoring federal and state developments, conducting outreach and education with state policymakers and county organizations, and preparing financial analysis and options for Governing Board consideration at a future meeting.

This item was informational only, and no action was taken.

Report from Legislative Representative

Vice Chair Vasquez introduced the item and invited Karen Lange of Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, the Governing Board's Legislative Representative, to provide an update.

Ms. Lange reported on recent and anticipated state and federal legislative activity affecting health and human services programs, including developments related to federal health policy changes, the upcoming 2026 legislative session, and preparation for the Governor's proposed FY 2026-27 State Budget. She noted that the Legislature will reconvene in early January and reviewed the expected timing of legislative deadlines, two-year bills, and release of the Governor's budget proposal.

Ms. Lange discussed ongoing uncertainty at the federal level and the potential implications for the State's health and human services budget, including Medi-Cal and related programs. She emphasized the importance of education and outreach to legislative and budget staff regarding the projected impacts of federal policy changes on counties, particularly with respect to indigent health care responsibilities and county fiscal capacity.

Ms. Lange reviewed the legislative watch list included in the meeting materials and advised that several measures affecting health coverage, Medi-Cal benefits, workforce programs, and access to care may be reconsidered in the 2026 legislative session. She encouraged CMSP counties to provide county-specific fiscal and programmatic information to support consistent statewide advocacy and noted that CMSP staff continue to coordinate closely with county organizations and other stakeholders to raise awareness of these issues.

Vice Chair Vasquez thanked Ms. Lange for her report.

No action was taken on this item.

Board Member Terms and Elections

Vice Chair Vasquez introduced the item and invited the Governing Board's Legislative Representative and Executive Director to report.

Karen Lange of Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange reported on the results of the election for the County Supervisor and County Administrative Officer positions. She reported that Supervisor Mike Ziegenmeyer (Sutter County) was re-elected to serve as the Supervisor representative for Group 2 Counties. Ms. Lange also reported that Derek

Ms. Brownstein presented a series of proposed services agreements and amendments recommended for Governing Board approval.

Ms. Brownstein first reviewed a proposed Amendment to the Agreement with MedImpact, CMSP's pharmacy benefit manager. She explained that MedImpact is upgrading its MedNetwork® Vaccine Program effective January 1, 2026, to improve pricing transparency, network management, and regulatory compliance. The proposed Amendment increases the per-claim administrative fee from \$3 to \$4 per vaccine claim and allows MedImpact to maintain competitive vaccine pricing through ongoing market negotiations.

Ms. Brownstein next reviewed a proposed Amendment to the Agreement with eSecurity Solutions, LLC, to conduct additional web application penetration testing associated with new functionality being implemented in the mCase enrollment platform. The proposed Amendment would authorize security testing of the updated system for a cost not to exceed \$19,999.

Ms. Brownstein then presented a proposed Services Agreement with CEA Strategies to provide public relations and communications support in calendar year 2026. She explained that, given anticipated state and federal health coverage changes and the conclusion of CMSP's marketing agreement with JSR Strategies at the end of 2025, staff does not recommend paid media advertising in 2026 but does anticipate a need for targeted public relations support. The proposed Agreement would support development of social media content, press releases, and stakeholder education materials, at a cost not to exceed \$33,000.

Ms. Brownstein also reviewed a proposed Services Agreement with EA Compensation Resources to continue providing human resources and compensation consulting services in 2026. She noted that EA Compensation Resources has supported CMSP's organizational and compensation structure since 2021 and that the proposed Agreement includes no rate increase from the prior year, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000.

Finally, Ms. Brownstein presented a proposed Services Agreement and Engagement Letter with Crowe LLP for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 CMSP Annual Audit. She noted that Crowe LLP has provided audit services to CMSP since 2009 and that the proposed audit fee of \$33,475 represents no increase from the prior year.

Following discussion, the Governing Board considered and took action on the proposed agreements and amendments.

ACTION MSC: Governing Board approve the proposed services agreements and amendments with MedImpact, eSecurity Solutions, LLC, CEA Strategies, EA Compensation Resources, and Crowe

As of September 30, 2025, Administrative Office expenditures totaled \$932,170 on an accrual basis, representing approximately 18% of the approved FY 2025-26 Administrative Office Budget of \$5,302,000.

As of October 31, 2025, Administrative Office expenditures totaled \$1,653,825 on an accrual basis, representing approximately 31% of the approved FY 2025–26 Administrative Office Budget.

This item was informational only, and no action was taken.

Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Executive Director

Vice Chair Vasquez reported that the Governing Board met in Closed Session to conduct the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director. She stated that the Governing Board completed the performance evaluation process and delegated authority to the Chair and/or Vice Chair to review the evaluation results with the Executive Director.

Vice Chair Vasquez noted that the reportable action taken in Closed Session regarding the Executive Director’s compensation had already been reported earlier in the meeting.

Executive Director’s Report

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

Laura Moyer, Grants Administrator, advised that the CMSP Loan Repayment Program (LRP) is currently open and accepting applications. Alison Kellen, Senior Program Director, provided an update on ongoing work related to CMSP’s enrollment platform and system enhancements.

Ms. Brownstein summarized recent stakeholder meetings and outreach efforts with county organizations and state partners, as well as CMSP participation in meetings and conferences related to state and federal health policy issues.

Vice Chair Vasquez thanked Ms. Brownstein for the report.

Public Comments

Vice Chair Vasquez opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Vasquez adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. The next regular CMSP Governing Board meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.