



**PARTNERSHIP HEALTHPLAN OF CALIFORNIA (PARTNERSHIP)
MEETING MINUTES**

Committee: Physician Advisory Committee
Date / Time: January 8, 2025 - 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Brown Act flexibilities have ended. Voting members are required to attend in-person at one of Partnership HealthPlan’s posted locations.

Members Present:	Steven Gwiazdowski, MD (FF) Angela Brennan, DO (FF) Teresa Shinder, DO (FF) Brent Pottenger, MD (FF) Michele Herman, MD (FF) Karen Sprague, MSN, CFNP (CC)	Chester Austin, MD (C) John McDermott, FNP (C) Candy Stockton, MD (E) Danielle Oryn, DO (AD) Karina Gookin, MD (AU) Suzanne Eidson-Ton, MD (CC)	Christina Lasich, MD (OMM) Mills Matheson, MD (OMM) Darrick Nelson, MD (R) Vanessa Walker, DO (SH)	FF Fairfield SR Santa Rosa E Eureka R Redding C Chico AU Auburn	MCC Marin Community Clinics OMM Office of Dr. Matheson AM Ampla Health SH Sutter Health CC CommuniCare+Ole
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Members Excused:	Matthew Zavod, MD Derice Seid, MD	Malia Honda, MD Chris Myers, MD
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Members Absent: Mustaffa Ammar, MD

Visitor:

Partnership Staff:	Sonja Bjork, Chief Executive Officer Jennifer Lopez, Chief Financial Officer Wendi Davis, Chief Operating Officer Leigha Andrews, Regional Director Mary Kerlin, Sr. Dir., Prov. Relations (PR) Lisa O’Connell, Director of Enhanced Health Services Doreen Crume, RN, N. Mgr. Care Coord. Stephanie Nakatani, Supervisor, Provider Relations Representatives Vicky Klakken, Dir., North Region Brigid Gast, RN, Dir. of CC	Robert Moore, MD, Chief Medical Officer Katherine Barresi, RN, Chief Health Services Officer Colleen Townsend, MD, Region Medical Director Mark Netherda, MD, Medical Director for Quality Jeffrey DeVido, MD, Behavioral Health Clinical Dir. Stan Leung, Pharm.D., Director, Pharmacy Services Vacant, RN, Assoc. Dir. UM Strategies Sue Quichocho, Mgr., Quality Measurement Amy McCune, Manager of QI Programs Bradley Cox, MD, Northeast Region Medical Director James Cotter, MD, Associate Medical Director	Jeffrey Ribordy, MD, Region Medical Director R. Doug Matthews, MD, Region Medical Director Marshall Kubota, MD, Region Medical Director Teresa Frankovich, MD, Associate Medical Director Nancy Steffen, Dir., Quality & Perf. Improvement Heather Esget, RN, Director, Utilization Mgmt. (UM) Kevin Jarret-Lee, RN, Assoc. Dir. of UM Kristine Gual, Director, Quality Measurement Isaac Brown, Director, Quality Management Mohamed Jalloh, Pharm.D., Director, Health Equity Megan Shelton, Project Manager, Quality Improvement DeLorean Ruffin, DrPH, Director, Population Health David Lavine, Assoc. Dir. of Workforce Development
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION	DATE RESOLVED
Public Comments	PAC Chairperson asked for any public comments. None presented.	N/A	N/A
Quorum	15/21 – PAC	Committee quorum requirements met (15).	01/08/25

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS For information only, no formal action required.
I.A. Chief Executive Officer Administration Updates	<p>Partnership’s Chief Operations Officer (COO) provided the following report on Partnership activities on behalf of Partnership’s Chief Executive Officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Newsom released announcement regarding priorities for 2025-2026 fiscal budget and proposals to include a MediCal focus on mental health and health equity. The formal budget is to be announced later in January. • On January 1, 2025 the ten counties added to Partnership’s network in 2024 have transitioned to the Whole Child Model (WCM), impacting 4,500 children, adolescents, and young adults who were previously enrolled in the California Children’s Services (CCS) model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care coordination has been authorized for those affected. • The case management team has been in contact with all high-risk families prior to the transition to ensure no interruptions to care. • California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative is a population of focus that Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has a considerable emphasis on with shared collaboration between county behavioral health, county probation and MediCal managed care plans (MCP) to ensure people exiting incarceration have access to care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuba County is one of the first three to go live offering enhanced care management to incarcerated individuals who have not yet left facilities. Peach Tree Clinic will provide medication management, case management referrals, and follow up for medical needs upon release. • Siskiyou County will be next to go live, followed by the Department of Corrections in state prisons in February with expectations of 30,000 released annually, of which 85% will be connected to enhance health services and/or community supports services. • Partnership’s Enhanced Health Services team is monitoring closely. • Partnership recently sent payments for targeted rate increases (TRI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many complexities in the TRI payments and how they are distributed which are addressed during upcoming webinars. • Partnership will communicate a monthly schedule related to the issuance of TRIs.
I.B. Chief Medical Officer Health Services Report	<p>Partnership’s Chief Medical Officer (CMO) presented a brief update on Health Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Quality Incentive Program Recognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following hospitals scored in the top 10%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventist Health Clearlake • Adventist Health Howard Memorial • Adventist Health Mendocino Coast • Adventist Health Ukiah • Banner Lassen Medical Center • Healdsburg Hospital • Marin Health Medical Center • Petaluma Valley Hospital • Providence Queen of the Valley • Providence Redwood Memorial • Providence Santa Rosa Memorial • Providence St. Joseph Eureka • Sonoma Valley Hospital • Trinity Hospital • Tahoe Forest Hospital

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS
<p>I.B. Chief Medical Officer Health Services Report, Continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHCS Sanctions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An announcement that was put out right around the holidays that DHCS was going to apply sanctions to a number of health plans throughout the state for their performance in the 2023 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) reporting region. • Any score below the minimum performance level is sanctionable, of which 16 – 18 measures fell below. • DHCS announced Partnership would be sanctioned \$475K. • More than \$360K is directly related to topical fluoride varnish for children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because topical fluoride varnish is predominantly done by dental care providers, we rely on DHCS to send the data. However, DHCS has never sent dental for dental providers that are Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Centers (RHC), and private health centers. • Partnership reverse engineered the dental visit data for children available to show the services were provided were above average and presented that information to DHCS. DHCS responded they would not be reducing the amount and provided no further explanation. • Partnership will be appealing the decision. • Well child visits for children 0 -15 months is another measure affected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state’s methodology in assigning newborn Client Index Number (CIN) numbers impaired the ability to capture accurate data as the numbers were not connected correctly to maternal CINs. • The rates are roughly 21% below true well child visit rates. • Developmental screening in children was also affected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership is reviewing the data for 2024 for upcoming HEDIS projects. • The coding for many of the visits is not universally applied, skewing the data. • Medicare Contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contracting team is reaching out to providers in the eight counties going live with Partnership Advantage, our Medicare dual special needs program (D-SNP) starting January 2026. • Providers in the counties going live are asked to review contracts and return them soon, or contact us for questions. • Regional Medical Directors Forums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eureka, Friday, March 21, 2025 • Redding, Friday, March 28, 2025 • Fairfield, Friday, April 4, 2025 • Ukiah, Friday, April 11, 2025 • Santa Rosa, Friday, April 25, 2025 • Marysville, Friday, May 2, 2025 • Upcoming Webinars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Measurement Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventative Care for Children Ages 0-30 Months, Wednesday, February 12, 2025 • Preventative Care for 3- to 17- Year Olds, Wednesday, February 26, 2025 • Chronic Disease and Colorectal Cancer Screening, Wednesday, March 12, 2025 • Perinatal Care and Chlamydia Screening, Wednesday, March 26, 2025 • Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings, Wednesday, April 9, 2025 • Capturing Patient Acuity Through Coding, Wednesday, February 19, 2025 • Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers & Systems (CAHPS) High Scorers (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churn Creek Healthcare • Communicare+Ole • Redding Rancheria • Redwood Pediatrics • Mendocino Coast Clinics • United Indian Health Service • NorthBay Healthcare

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS
<p>I.C.1. Status Update, Regional Medical</p>	<p>Partnership’s Regional Medical Director for Napa, Solano, and Yolo Counties presented a brief update on activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Safe Solano, the Opioid Safety Coalition in Solano County, will be hosting a MAT Harm Reduction Symposium on January 10, 2025, at Touro University, Farragut Inn, 1310 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA, 94592 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Napa Opioid Safety Coalition held a video contest marketed to adolescents and young adults to produce a video about the dangers associated with opioids. There were roughly 20 submissions, of which three were selected for awards and shown in a local theater. • Partnership Perinatal Services Program webinar will be held monthly in January through June. • Doula Pathway Webinars and Training held March 11, May 13, September 9, and November 11, 2025. • The Perinatal Symposium to be held in Fairfield on March 10, 2025.
<p>I.C.2. Status Update, Regional Medical</p>	<p>Partnership’s Regional Medical Director for Marin and Sonoma Counties presented a brief update on activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership is looking forward to welcoming Dr. Lisa Ward to the staff in February 2025. Dr. Ward has served as the Chief Medical Officer at Santa Rosa Community Health and is a graduate of University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Family Medicine Program. • The current Regional Medical director will stay on staff but will be transitioning to a part-time role in the spring of 2025. • Dr. Donald Goldyn has been appointed the new Chief Medical Officer of Marin City Health and Wellness. • Partnership offered a grant for retinal cameras to be installed in practices struggling to increase retinal screening rates which is important in managing care for members with a diabetes diagnosis.
<p>I.C.3. Status Update, Regional Medical</p>	<p>Partnership’s Regional Medical Director for Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties presented a brief update on activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to California Attorney General lawsuit, Providence St. Joseph agreed to provide all necessary obstetrical care without restriction as a stipulation of the ongoing case. Providence St. Joseph has asked CAG to dismiss the case. However, a civil suit by an unnamed woman out of state has been filed against Providence St. Joseph with potential for more in the future. • Providence St. Joseph is reducing the cardiothoracic program and will no longer have a fulltime specialist in the area. Instead, a specialist from Santa Rosa will travel to Eureka six days per month. Any members not scheduled during that window will need to be seen outside of the area. • Providence announced only Providence specialists will only be taking referrals from Providence Primary Care Providers (PCPs). Providence supplies most specialty care in the area, restricting access to all but 781 members of 58,000 members in Humboldt County. • Access to care is becoming further constrained.
<p>I.C.4. Status Update, Regional Medical</p>	<p>Partnership’s Regional Medical Director for Glenn, Butte, Sutter, Colusa, Yuba, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, and Placer Counties presented a brief update on activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership welcomes a new Medical Director for Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, and Placer Counties in February, Dr. Matthew Morris, starting on Feb 3. • Ampla Health is ready to launch a construction project on a flagship location in Yuba City, CA. • Oroville Hospital affected by \$10M settlement from Office of the Inspector General for Medicare and Medicaid billing. • Met with Healthy Rural California to discuss continued medical education efforts. • Los Angeles area fires will have financial risks, insurance, and emergency response costs rolled into budgets again impacting all areas in California.
<p>I.C.5. Status Update, Regional Medical</p>	<p>Partnership’s Regional Director for Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Trinity, and Tehama Counties presented a brief update on activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MediCal Assisted Living Waiver was passed by the Board of Supervisors in Shasta County enabling members to receive care in assisted living facilities instead of nursing homes. Although passed, the waiver must be reviewed by DHCS and go through the process before it is affected. • Siskiyou Couy is excited to go live with CalAIM Justice Involved.

AGENDA ITEM	MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION	DATE RESOLVED
<p>III.A.</p> <p>III.B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ III.B.1 ▪ III.B.2 ▪ III.B.5 ▪ III.B.7 	<p>November 2024 PAC minutes were presented for approval.</p> <p>Consent Calendar Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality / Utilization Advisory Committee (QUAC) Activities Report with Attachments – November 2024 • Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines for Action Policy Summary January 2025 • Credentials Committee Meeting – October 9 and November 19, 2024 Summary and Credentialed Lists • Quality Improvement Health Equity Committee Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2024 	<p>MOTION: Dr. Brennan moved to approve Agenda III.A as presented, seconded by, seconded by Dr. Pottenger. ACTION SUMMARY: [15] yes, [0] no, [0] abstentions.</p> <p>MOTION: Dr. Herman moved to approve Agenda III.B.1, III.B.2, III.B.5 and III.B.7, as presented, seconded by Dr. Pottenger. ACTION SUMMARY: [15] yes, [0] no, [0] abstentions.</p>	<p>01/08/25 Motion carried.</p> <p>01/08/25 Motion carried.</p>
<p>AGENDA ITEM</p>	<p>DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS</p>		
<p>V.A Committee Member Roundtable Discussion</p>	<p>Committee Member Roundtable Discussion, Top Challenges for 2025</p> <p><u>Dr. Gwiazdowski, NorthBay Neonatology and Associates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment is the biggest challenge, especially in rural areas. Fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions have filled gaps, but constrain the ability to determine how many physicians are truly needing to replace physicians through attrition and retirement. The demands and expectations of the workforce seeking greater work-life balance are factors new physicians consider when accepting positions. • Closures of obstetrical units further displace access to care, increasing the likelihood of obstetrical deliveries taking place in non-obstetrical facilities. Additional training for life-saving care augments existing capabilities. <p><u>Dr. Angela Brennan, NorthBay Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider recruitment and retention continue to be issues. Recruitment of new residency graduates often happens one year out from the start date, but Family Physicians are in high demand ready to hire sooner. • NorthBay Health looks to integrate more mental health care back into clinics that was lost during the COVID019 pandemic. <p><u>Dr. Brent Pottenger, Solano County Health and Human Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CARE Act Court started in December for someone with a chronic psychotic condition to receive care through an avenue of voluntary care work. The CARE Act connects a person with a court-ordered Care Plan for up to 24 months. This includes Community-based behavioral health services, housing as available, and support services for one year, which can be extended one more year. • Preparing for implementation of Senate Bill 43 (SB43) which will bring changes to Lanterman-Petris Short (LPS) Act criteria for both 5150 holds and conservatorship under LPS with a key focus on substance use disorder (SUD) and criteria for determining if someone is a danger to their personal safety. SB43 will go live in January 2026. Solano County is preparing for the training and education in the community for how it is implemented and any infrastructure needed for potential involuntary holds of people experiencing SUD. • Touro University now has a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program and hopes to place the first student this year in efforts to build up the psychiatric mental nurse practitioner workforce in the region. 		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS
IV. A Old Business	None
V.A Committee Member Roundtable Discussion, Continued	<p>Committee Member Roundtable Discussion, Top Challenges for 2025</p> <p><u>Dr. Candy Stockton, Humboldt County Public Health, Eureka, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are increasing struggles to manage care for those moving back and forth across state lines in regard to privacy and confidentiality for those seeking access to reproductive health care. There are concerns about prosecution and how that will be impacted in 2025. • Access is a large problem because there are so few specialists and PCPs. However, those on MediCal have the most reliable access in the area. <p><u>Dr. Chester Austin, Northern Valley Indian Health, Butte County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and retention are issues in the area. Although the physical space is expanding, recruiting providers to the area remains a challenge. • Well-child visit scheduling and constrained access is making timely appointments to meet the measure a challenge. <p><u>Dr. Christina Lasich, Sutter Lakeside Hospital, Lake County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported 253 births in 2024, up from fewer than 200 in 2023. Sutter Lakeside champions prenatal care in the area and hopes to have 300 or more births in 2025. Several OB/GYNs have expressed interest in joining the community. • Primary care is also a focus for recruitment. Three PCPs joined in late 2024, and Sutter Lakeside will continue growing the PCP team in 2025. • Adding a new clinic in Hidden Valley Lake in 2025. • Adding a crisis stabilization unit attached to the emergency department as part of our statewide initiative for behavioral health and SUD integration. • Expanding specialty access to include neurology and dialysis. • Staffing additional nurse practitioners (NPs) and certified nurse midwives (CNMs). <p><u>Dr. Danielle Oryn, Aliados Health, Sonoma County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echoed recruitment and retention are issues. • Access to reproductive health and care for undocumented persons is concerning as it pertains to data sharing. • Access to specialty and OB care is constrained. <p><u>John McDermott, FNP-PAC, First Care Medical Associates, Butte County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and retention are also issues in the area. • The lack of mental health care in Glenn County is a challenge due to a lack of behavioral health providers, especially for children. • The care of the elderly is an additional focus as there has been an increase in discovering elderly members living in deplorable conditions. • Veteran care is an additional focus moving into 2025. <p><u>Karen Sprague, FNP, Community Medical Centers, Yolo County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and retention of providers is a concern. Welcomed a new internal medicine physician, CNM, and FNP recently. Working out staffing and physical space allocation. • CMC will be transitioning to Epic in May. • Dixon clinic opened to new patients in 2024, but member engagement and outreach have been challenging.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS
<p>V.A Committee Member Roundtable Discussion, Continued</p>	<p>Committee Member Roundtable Discussion, Top Challenges for 2025</p> <p><u>Dr. Karina Gookin, Chapa De Indian Health, Placer County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals and specialty access are a challenge. Cardiology is the largest issue as a cardiologist in Roseville stopped seeing Chapa De Indian Health patients. Chapa De formed a relationship with Adventist Cardiology to come to the clinic once per month to see 30 patients per day. Pain management is a challenge as some providers have stopped seeing MediCal patients. • Neurology and gastroenterology are also specialties with access-to-care issues. • Referrals to specialty care is slow due to low staffing. • Staffing is normal at the moment with the help of the Family Residency program at UC Davis and residents wanting to stay on staff. <p><u>Dr. Michele Herman, La Clinica, Solano County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider burnout and allocation of work-day hours spent is concerning. • Looking for ways to expand support of housing. <p><u>Dr. Mills Matheson, Bethel Creek Medical Clinic, Mendocino County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed concern about the TRI payments and financial impacts and disruption to existing financial arrangements. Taxes will have to be paid on the additional funds given by the state, and should the state ask for a return of the money, practices are not reimbursed for the taxes paid. The audits are very complicated and lengthy. • There is increased pressure to perform Medicare wellness exams which will reduce the number of urgent and chronic care appointments available. • A new partner is joining the practice. <p><i>Partnership’s Chief Financial Officer shared the tax implications will be brought to the attention of DHCS in further discussions so the state understands implications of Prop 35.</i></p> <p><u>Dr. Suzanne Eidson-Ton, CommuniCare+Ole, Yolo, Solano, and Napa Counties, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about potential U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requests to search and proper legal responses. • Recruitment and retention are also issues for the clinics. • Epic electronic medical records (EMR) has been a large success since implementation five months prior. <p><u>Dr. Teresa Shinder, Communicare+Ole, Napa County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about growing community skepticism of vaccine and vaccine safety. • Focused on staffing support positions such as medical assistants, nurses, and call center. <p><u>Dr. Vannessa Walker, Sutter Roseville, Yolo County, CA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on heart-failure readmission rates for Partnership members with a goal to reduce 26% to 12% by ensuring our patients are getting follow up appointments, medications, and any of the social determinants of health resources that they need regarding medically tailored needs.

VI. Adjournment		
PAC adjourned at 8:48 a.m.	Next PAC on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. Brown Act flexibilities have ended.	

For Signature Only

The foregoing minutes were APPROVED AS PRESENTED on _____
Date

02/12/2025



Steve Gwiazdowski, M.D., Committee Chairperson

The foregoing minutes were APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION on _____
Date

Steve Gwiazdowski, M.D., Committee Chairperson