Sacramento County Health Authority Commission General Meeting Minutes

August 12th, 2025, 3:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.

Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
SCHA Voting Members			
April Ludwig	☒Present ☐ Absent	Kirti Malhotra, MD	☒Present ☐ Absent
Britta Guerrero	☐Present ☒ Absent	Margarita Dodatko	☒Present ☐ Absent
Cortney Maslyn	☒Present ☐ Absent	Marvin Kamras, MD	☒Present ☐ Absent
Edwin Kirby	☒Present ☐ Absent	Michelle Monroe	☒Present ☐ Absent
Ellen Brown	☒Present ☐ Absent	Nicholas Capistrano	☒Present ☐ Absent
Jerry Bliatout	☐Present ☒ Absent	Phyllis Baltz	☐Present ☒ Absent
Julie Gallelo	☒Present ☐ Absent	Ravinder Khaira, MD	☒Present ☐ Absent
Keri Thomas	☐Present ☒ Absent	Richard Pan, MD	☒Present ☐ Absent
Kim Williams	☐Present ☒ Absent	Supervisor Kennedy	☐Present ☒ Absent
SCHA Non-voting Members			
Abbie Totten	☐Present ☒ Absent	Beau Henneman	☒Present ☐ Absent
Amber Kemp	☒Present ☐ Absent	Cristina Pena	☒Present ☐ Absent
Banafsheh Siadat	☒Present ☐ Absent		
County Staff to SCHA			
Jenine Spotnitz	☐Present ☒ Absent	Yuri Torres	☒Present ☐ Absent
Gina Patterson	☒Present ☐ Absent	Maryam Muslih	☒Present ☐ Absent

Agenda Item
1. **Welcome/Opening Remarks and Updates** – *Eddie Kirby, Acting Chair* Meeting convened at 3:03 p.m. by Acting Chair. **Acting Chair – Eddie Kirby** • Provided update on process for chair recommendation, scheduled for Winter 2025. **Quality Improvement / Quality Assurance (QI/QA) Committee – Dr. Ravinder Khaira** • Two meetings held addressing the continuum of health care, with emphasis on full stakeholder inclusion and actionable deliverables to improve community health. • A contract was initiated with NORC (preliminary phase) to identify healthcare data and analyses of interest, including to identify disparities and stratifications. • Collaborative approach established with Managed Care Plans to maximize community benefit and health. **Consumer Protection Committee (CPC) – Dr. Kirti Malhotra** • Upcoming 2027 redeterminations will occur more frequently, potentially impacting member Medi-Cal coverage and healthcare systems. • CPC seeks to work proactively on solutions, including:

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• Unified messaging from trusted providers to simplify communication with members. • Proactive outreach to members to prevent coverage lapses, rather than reactive cold calls. • Pooling resources to support members facing potential coverage issues. **Department of Health Services (DHS) – Cortney Maslyn and Gina Patterson** • HR-1 policy components to be presented at the next meeting, with feedback to be gathered. • Consulting group and DHS members to assist in policy discussion. • Two new SCHA members will be appointed in October: Yvonne Spears and Sean Atha. • One Medi-Cal Beneficiary seat remains vacant. **Ad-Hoc Committee – Michelle Monroe** • Ad-Hoc 5 is focusing on bylaws and revisions, specifically regarding chair selection procedures. • Recommendations to be submitted to CPC. **Specialty Care Ad-Hoc – Michelle Monroe** • Committee working to obtain data reflecting realities of the healthcare system. • Concern noted: Access to specialty care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries is expected to decline.
2. **Agenda Review** – *Sacramento County Department of Health Services Staff – Eddie Kirby, Acting Chair* Acting Chair presented the agenda for review.
3. **Action: Quality Improvement & Quality Assurance New Member Appointment** – *Eddie Kirby, Acting Chair* **Action:** Recommendation to appoint Michelle Monroe, Britta Guererro, and Margarita Dodatko for QI/QA Committee. **Public Comment:** Acting Chair called for public comment; none received. **Motion:** Commissioner Ravinder Khaira, MD **Second:** Commissioner Julie Gallelo There was no public comment. **Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
4. **Action: Approval of Revised Commission Bylaws** – *Commissioner Michelle Monroe*

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Action: Commissioner Michelle Monroe called for a motion to approve the revised Commission Bylaws. **Public Comment:** Acting Chair called for public comment; none received. **Motion:** Commissioner Edwin Kirby **Second:** Commissioner Dr. Ravinder Khaira **Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
5. Action: SCHA Commission Strategic Plan – *Eddie Kirby, Acting Chair* **Action:** Extend the current Strategic Plan through the end of 2025. Assign the work of updating the Strategic Plan to the QI/QA and CPC subcommittees, with a directive to present a proposed updated plan at a future Commission meeting. **Public Comment:** Acting Chair called for public comment; none received. **Motion:** Commissioner Julie Gallelo **Second:** Commissioner Nicholas Capistrano **Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
6. Action: Commission Bylaws and Administrative Processes – *Eddie Kirby, Acting Chair* **Action:** Appointment of Ad-Hoc Bylaws & Governance with the purpose of reviewing to provide recommendations regarding SCHA's administration, policies and procedures. This Ad-Hoc would end at the second occurrence of the SCHA general meeting in 2026. **Public Comment:** Acting Chair called for public comment; none received. **Motion:** Commissioner Kirti Malhotra, MD **Second:** Commissioner Ellen Brown **Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. **Outcome:** Motion carried.
7. Presentation & Discussion: Federal Policy Changes Update – *Meredith Wurden, Sellers Dorsey* **Summary:** A presentation and update on H.R. 1 (“One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) summarizing its immediate and projected impacts on Medi-Cal, including coverage losses, funding risks, and contracts on eligibility and provider financing.

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Discussion Highlights:

Inquiry on specifics of county-level impact, particularly for large populations shifting to Uninsured Status (UIS), asylum seekers, and those under Medicaid expansion; further data to be provided at a future meeting.
Acknowledgment that data is challenging; additional information forthcoming.
Comment regarding state communication on leveraging ex-parte data and using creative strategies to retain member benefits.
Noted concern over members voluntarily dropping coverage due to information-sharing practices.
Question raised on the Commission’s role in educating the community about maintaining Medi-Cal coverage.

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8. Presentation, Discussion & Action: Medi-Cal Transformation Concept Paper - Meredith Wurden, Sellers Dorsey & Sacramento County Department of Health Services Staff

Summary: Brief presentation on Department of Health Care Services (DCHS) CalAIM Concept Paper, “Continuing the Transformation of Medi-Cal"-- outlining the state’s vision for renewing key Medi-Cal waiver initiatives from 2027-2031, its member-centered focus, continuation of core programs (such as Enhanced Care Management, Community Supports, Justice-Involved Re-entry, DMC-ODS, etc.), and ongoing public comment through August 22, 2025, as part of its renewal planning process.

Discussion Highlights:

Request for additional details on Comprehensive Purchasing Strategies; noted that current information is insufficient and state is seeking input on incentivizing plans and providers.
Question regarding anticipated engagement.
New programming suggestions may be dependent on budget impacts from H.R. 1; uncertainty noted on how the state will address potential budget constraints or actions.

Action 1: Commissioners to compile and approve staff submission of feedback to DHCS including the comments below and any comments submitted by SCHA Commission:

a. Timely access to specialty care — without which emergency departments become default primary care providers, creating strain on hospitals.

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b. Clarification on whether telehealth provisions will be addressed; Center for Medicaid Services exceptions during COVID not currently incorporated. c. General support response to DHCS concept paper. **Additional Commissioner Comments:** 1. Potential for Data Sharing Agreements with the State. (Cortney Maslyn) 2. Vision of CalAIM has yet to be fully realized; Commission expresses overall support to demonstrate public backing. (Beau Henneman) 3. Need for improved eligibility processes; commitment to automation to support CalAIM's goals. (Michelle Monroe) 4. Recommendation for State coordination with media regarding looming eligibility issues. (Nicholas Capistrano) **Public Comment:** Acting Chair called for public comment; none received. **Motion:** Commissioner Nicholas Capistrano **Second:** Commissioner Margarita Dodakto **Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. **Outcome:** Motion carried.

9. Discussion: Future Commission Meeting Agenda Topics – *Sacramento County Department of Health Services*
Discussion Points:
• Emphasized the importance of aligned messaging regarding federal and state impacts, with a request that such messaging be conveyed consistently through Commission meetings.
 	
• Comments highlighted the value of clear meeting takeaways and actionable items for participants. Suggestions included designating explicit action points at the conclusion of each meeting and considering meeting frequency in light of time-sensitive issues.
 	
• Staff reported that a survey will be conducted regarding meeting locations and schedules for the upcoming year, with potential inclusion of questions on preferred meeting frequency. County staff stressed the importance of advance notice for agenda topics to allow preparation and participation from relevant departments or presenters.
 	
• Suggestions for future agenda topics included:
    o Mental health, including maternal mental health.
    o Allocating time for commissioners to collectively discuss issues beyond informational presentations.

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• Staff noted that future agendas will maintain opportunities for commissioner input and that a survey will solicit additional topic ideas. • Proposal made to place the tentative November meeting on hold, with a decision to confirm or cancel to be made at the October meeting. • Staff encouraged commissioner participation in standing committees, which meet monthly.
10. Public Comment – *One comment per person, limited to two minutes* Acting Chair opened the floor for public comment; none received.
11. Closing Comments and Adjournment – *Eddie Kirby, Acting Chair* Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.