



**Sacramento County
Department of Health Services
Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2025

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Zoom Meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609470501?pwd=hWFbJk02hhpzTo0wgKApYnNjfrF59n.1>

Facilitator: Effie Ruggles

Scribe: Nkechi Michel

Meeting Attendees:

- Effie Ruggles
- Nkechi Michel
- Melody Law
- Rebecca Lewis
- Christina Newport
- Donyale Abe
- Leesa Hooks
- Daphne Echols
- Patsy Jimenez Arellano
- Danielle Jackson
- Tara Taylor
- Emely Arianza
- Melissa Herrera
- Cristina Pena
- Suzanne Eidson- Ton
- Ithiopia McKinney
- Robert Hickman
- Robin Blanks-Guster
- Alexis Ousley
- Amanda Lynch
- Tosha Ulicni
- Kimberly Grimes
- Fienishia Wash

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| Welcome and Introductions | The meeting was called to order at 8:40am by Effie Ruggles. |
| Agenda and Minutes | Robin Guster- Banks motioned to approve the minutes with one correction and Patsy Jimenez Arellano seconded the motion to approve the minutes. |
| Public Health Officer's Report: Presented by Dr. Melody Law, Deputy Health Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall of infant formula ByHeart and infant botulism cases. • Reminder for providers that Silicosis is a reportable condition and that there are increasing cases in the country. • Avian flu H5 found in migrating birds in the region including Sacramento County. Reported case of one Human H5 case in the country. Not in the county yet. • County Public Health and CDPH has 2025-26 respiratory virus dashboard. • All respiratory viruses levels are very low at this time in Sacramento county, will continue to monitor. • Continued bicillin shortage for Syphilis treatment. Shortage is scheduled to continue through 3rd quarter of 2026. |
| MCAH Updates: Presented by Leesa Hooks, MCAH Director | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November is prematurity and diabetes awareness month. • MCAH with business as usual as we end the calendar year. Only a few updates. • Updated Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA) 2020-2022 data released in the MIHA data snapshots dashboard. Contact Leesa or Nkechi if need more information on how to access. • There will be a webinar of 11-20-25: "CYSHCN 101- supporting children and youth with special health care needs in the public health system". If you are interested, reach out to Leesa or Nkechi for more details. • MCAH Directors were able to provide direct feedback to DHCS and CHEAC on an <i>all plan letter</i> (APL) draft which will soon be released to all MCPS and providers, outlining and consolidating the required assessments, interventions and resources that are to be made available to all pregnant and postpartum women on Medi-Cal in California. More to come. |
| Effie Ruggles- Special Acknowledgment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Harry Wang was acknowledged for serving on the MCAH AB for over 30 years. His dedication and passion for |

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| | <p>advancing health outcomes is so important and appreciated. Thank you, Dr. Wang</p> |
| <p>Community Nursing: Daphne Echols</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates provided |
| <p>Presenters: Amanda Lynch from Heartland Child and Family Services</p> <p>&</p> <p>Samareen Shami from Molina Healthcare of California</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nkechi sent out slides from both presenters. |
| <p>Nurse-Family Partnership Updates Staffing, Funding, Referrals, Community Collaboration/Support, Advocacy, and Benchmarks- Tosha Ulicni/Fay Bursch</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacramento NFP has had a change in one of our funders, we are now currently funded only by CHVP and MIECHV • Due to budget reductions to the CalWORKs funding from CA Dept of Social Services, we will no longer be participating in the Family Support Initiative. • Birth and Beyond will continue to participate in the Family Support Initiative. NFP will continue to serve our enrolled participants – offering to co-serve with Birth and Beyond so the families can continue to take advantage of the material goods benefit that the Family Support Initiative program offers. • We are being told that if the allocation increases next year, NFP will be asked to participate again. • We have started enrolling NFPx clients – 6 have enrolled with several more in the process of being offered services. It is going well and staff have transitioned nicely to offering NFP services to all pregnant mothers. • We had our CHVP site visit in September, went very well. The CHVP staff spent most of the day with us to discuss all aspects of NFP. This included attending a staff meeting, meeting with the home visitors to see how it's going in the field. Then there was an administrative session where we discussed the program, our data, and a few fiscal items. We were also able to arrange a home visit for one of the CHVP staff to attend, to see what work we do with our clients in the home and she loved it – she had never attended one before. • We held a graduation on 11/6/25. We had 26 graduates and everyone had fun. We had a ceremony and each client/family was called up to receive their certificate. We |

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| | <p>played music for dancing, provided toddler activities with blocks, coloring and bubbles. We also had snacks and cupcakes for the families. It was a successful day and our next graduation will be held in the springtime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• |
| Board Member Updates/Announcements | N/A |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am by Effie Ruggles. |