

SACRAMENTO COUNTY



**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

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

Meeting Minutes

January 13th, 2026

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Zoom Meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601122068?pwd=GSIm9Pugb3YeX5uauarLHCmNNoyBMt.1>

Facilitator: Effie Ruggles

Scribe: Nkechi Michel

Meeting Attendees:

- Effie Ruggles
- Nkechi Michel
- Dr. Melody Law
- Fay Bursch
- Andrea Leung
- Nyuieko Bansah
- Dr. Kristiana Lehn
- Christina Newport
- Donyale Abe
- Leesa Hooks
- Dr. Suzanne Eidson-Ton
- Patsy Jimenez Arellano
- Tara Taylor
- Lisa Benton
- Emely Arianza
- Crystal Gozalez
- Cristina Pena
- Lyanna Pillizar-Blanco
- Ithiopia McKinney
- Robert Hickman
- Robin Blanks-Guster
- Tosha Ulicni
- Kimberly Grimes

Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 8:40am by Nkechi Michel/Effie Ruggles.
Agenda and Minutes	Minutes from the meeting held on November 18 th , 2025 will be shared at a later date.
Public Health Officer’s Report: Presented by Dr. Melody Law, Deputy Health Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking respiratory virus’s dashboard w/ CDPH • There is an increase in Flu ED visits in Sacramento County • COVID and RSV remain low • Rising influenza cases due to new strain called H3N2, mostly affecting children. One reported case. • New flu vaccine does not protect against newest strain • Public Health Officer Dr. Kasiyre is retiring- recruitment flyer went out in January • West Coast Health Alliance is supporting the American academy of pediatrics schedule immunizations schedule • There are nationwide Salmonella cases. Just above 80 cases in Sacramento County are due to egg contamination.
MCAH Updates: Presented by Leesa Hooks, MCAH Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have concerns that mothers and families may lose DHCS related coverage and benefits due to federal budget cuts and changes to Medi-Cal. • With the anticipation of Medi-Cal cuts and folks losing coverage, the County is exploring bringing back the County Medically Indigent Services Program (CMISP)
Community Nursing: Daphne Echols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates provided during this meeting
Presenters: Lyanna Pillizar-Blanco, Program Coordinator with Sacramento County Sexual Health Promotion Unit Ithiopia Mckinney- Executive Director of O-Communiti Doulas	<p>Lyanna provided SHPU specific programmatic updates as well as some data and statistics around HIV and other reportable STIs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nkechi will share the program slide deck. • Conversations started regarding asset mapping to identify gaps in services including zip codes without services. • <p>Ithiopia provided an overview of available services at her organization, identifying challenges and successes.</p>
Nurse-Family Partnership Updates Staffing, Funding, Referrals, Community Collaboration/Support, Advocacy, and Benchmarks- Tosha Ulicni/Fay Bursch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating “baby boom” among NFP staff. Three staff are on maternity leave. • Can help clients get referred to other programs if possible • There is a current wait list for their program • Working through end of the Family Support Initiative (FSI) funding to maintain continuity of care. All clients have been referred to Birth and Beyond and can remain through alternative funding sources to receive support

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrapped training series on Intimidate Partner Violence (IPV). The nurses reported feeling more confident when speaking to their clients experiencing IPV • All mandated training among nursing staff are completed • All nurses have become Certified Nursing Counselors • 2025 CQI project is completed – goal was to keep families engaged. Now working to finalize 2026 CQI goals.
<p>Board Member Updates/Announcements</p>	<p>Cristina Pena (Kaiser) upcoming webinar DHCS & CDSS webinar “Silos to Synergy: Transforming Child-Welfare Health Through Partnerships with Managed-Care Plans” this Friday 1/16/26.</p> <p>Sacramento County is being highlighted as an example county that has established MOUs with the MCPs and has developed a strong relationship between MCPs and the County leads to supporting children, youth and families engaged in the child welfare system.</p> <p>Please find link: Medi-Cal Services for Child Welfare Webinar Series Continuing and Professional Education Human Services</p> <p>Kimberly Grimes shared HBPP workgroup (focused on perinatal substance use) flyer with the group. Nkechi has also shared it via email.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am by Effie Ruggles.</p>