

# Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 3, 2025 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Sacramento County Public Health Education Programs**  
7001 East Parkway-Conference Room 1  
Sacramento CA 95823

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 161 828 6839

**Facilitator:** Jonathan Porteus

**Scribe:** Alexis Ousley

### Members Present:

- |                 |                     |                    |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Robyn Alongi  | • Darrell Kenworthy | • Monica Montano   |
| • Sunanda       | • Cathy Levering    | • James Musser     |
| • Bandyopadhyay | • Timothy Martinez  | • Morgan Musser    |
| • Robin Blanks- | • Shannon           | • Debra Payne      |
| • Guster        | • McConnell         | • Jonathan Porteus |
| • Julie Gallelo | • Roshani Mehta     | • Cherag Sarkari   |
| • David Hughes  | • Michelle Monroe   | • Cynthia Stuart   |

### Members Absent:

- Olivia Kasirye
- Bilee Hernandez
- Rachel Shafer




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## Members Called in:

- Mary Jess Wilson



**Public Present in person or teleconference:** Debbie Blanchard, Margaret Delmore, David Goodman, Robin Muck, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Alexis Ousley, Felisha Scott, Michael Tavallaci, Karyn Dugger, Carroll Badgley, Heather Lawler, Shuruq Emamo, Donnell Kenworthy, Adriane Sawyer, Ahmad Salim, Alisha Gutierrez, Bakir Abduljabbar, Candy Stirdivant, Dana Durham, Darren Vinson, Destiny Rockwood, D Ferber, Katrina Eagilen, Lisa B. Nguyen, Eddie Hu, Edith Acevedo, Helen Pham, Judy Lema, Linh Le, Lisa Hooks, Liz Bishop, May Saeturn, Nahrien Young, Park D, Paul Glassman, Rachel Gonsalves, Rhoda Gonzalez, Rima Hakim, Rosanna Jackson, Sam Seiden, Sarah Costa, Shakalpi Pendurkaur, Susan McLearn, Thomas Lovinger, Tiffany Turner.

2:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm by Jonathan Porteus.
2:05 PM	Approve Meeting Minutes <b>(Action)</b>	<p>The February 6, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Committee and a motion was made to approve with the following amendment: request to change 'Monica Monroe' to 'Monica Montano' at the 3:00 PM timestamp.</p> <p><b>Motion to approve: Timothy Martinez                      Second: Cathy Levering                      Motion Carried.</b></p>
2:10 PM	DHCS Update	<p>Presented by Dana Durham and DHCS staff.</p> <p> MCDAC-FactSheet-April-2025.pdf</p> <p><b>a. Sacramento County Medi-Cal Dental Fact Sheet:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 2025 MCDAC fact sheet reflects data from Quarter 4 of 2024 (October to December). The department focused specifically on Sacramento and statewide data, and the fact sheet has been revised to reflect this focus. Provider data for April has been omitted from this month's fact sheet as they are working to procure more accurate data. If anyone needs to reference provider data, they can consult the latest fee-for-service fact sheet online or reach out to a DHCS staff member.</li><li>• Highlighted dental utilization patterns from 2019 to 2024 for children (0–20 years old) and adults (21 years and over). Reviewed top procedure rates and counts for children ages 0–20 in 2024, along with updated top procedure counts for adults using 2024 data.</li></ul>

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- Sacramento fee-for-service enrollment is limited to:
  - Individuals with complex membership needs
  - Members who requested a medical exemption due to access issues
  - Members from a federally recognized tribe who opted out of managed care enrollment

## **b. Dental Managed Care Updates:**

- DHCS continues its Operational Readiness Review in preparation for the new dental managed care plan contracts commencing on July 1, 2025. This effort includes reviewing numerous implementation-specific and operational deliverables in collaboration with both the existing dental plans and the newly procured plan, DentaQuest. This collaboration produced a Transition Policy Guide to help ensure a seamless transition for members.
- The transition strategy includes planned phased communication with 90-day, 60-day, and 30-day notices to inform members of upcoming changes. After implementation, DHCS will track the transition closely to identify and address member issues members. Transition plan is posted online.

## **c. Community Health Worker Oral Health Training/Medi-Cal Dental Updates:**

- Medical and dental providers can bill for the CHW benefit using CBT code D994. CHW services via teledentistry are reimbursable with no restrictions on place of service. CHWs may render services via synchronous teledentistry that is within their scope of practice and limited to a 90-minutes using CBT code D995. For any questions regarding CHW services for teledentistry, please refer to the Medical-Dental Provider Handbook.
- Pathways to CHW certification:
  - Certificate pathway:
    - CHW certification achieved via completion of a curriculum or test, as well as practical training in the following areas: communication, interpersonal relationship building, service coordination and navigation, advocacy, outreach, capacity building, education and facilitation, individual and community assessment, professional skills and conduct, evaluation and research, basic knowledge of public health principles and social determinants of health, and completed field experience.
  - Work experience pathway:


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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An individual must demonstrate 2,000 hours of paid or volunteer experience within the previous three years and must show skills and practical training in the areas of public health. This individual may serve as a CHW for a maximum of 18 months while working toward obtaining certification.</li> <li>• DHCS is developing CHW oral health videos for educational and resource training, which are expected to go live on the Smile CA website during the second week of April. Additional information about Medi-Cal CHWs can be found in <u>Dental Community Health Workers, Volume 41 Number 08.pdf</u>.</li> <li>• Dr. Shakalpi Pendurkar shared that the CDPH Office of Oral Health and UCLA are collaborating to create and provide a CHW curriculum that includes dental content. This curriculum will be made available as a free resource. For questions reach out to <u>dental@dhcs.ca.gov</u>.</li> </ul>
2:45 PM	Elect MCDAC Chair and Vice-Chair for Two-Year Term <b>(Action)</b>	<p>Chair called for nominations. Current Chair (Jonathan Porteus) and Vice Chair (Julie Gallelo) are willing to continue in their respective roles. With no objections or additional nominations, a motion was made to nominate Jonathan Porteus as Chair and Julie Gallelo as Vice Chair for an additional two-year term.</p> <p><b>Motion to approve: Debra Payne      Second: Cynthia Stuart      Motion Carried.</b></p>
2:55 PM	MCDAC Workgroup Updates and Next Steps	<p>a. <b>General Anesthesia Workgroup:</b> Jonathan Porteus reports the CEO of Shriners Children’s Hospital is planning to attend the June MCDAC meeting. The intention is to gain a better understanding of Sacramento County GA needs with the goal of exploring potential partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Glassman announces that California North State University has received a grant that will support the development of two operating rooms. These rooms will increase access to general anesthesia services.</li> </ul> <p>b. <b>Oral Health Equity Workgroup:</b> Debra Payne reports the group is working on developing a Community Health Worker (CHW) training specific to Sacramento County and is meeting weekly. The group is reviewing existing CHW training resources and assessing whether they meet local needs. They have determined that a more streamlined and cost-effective approach—such as on-demand video training—would be more accessible. The goal is to have a completed training product by the end of summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The group plans to engage with local water agencies to communicate the importance of continued water fluoridation, especially as Sacramento County water fluoridation contracts begin to expire in 2027. The group has a sample community water fluoridation support letter to share.</li> </ul> <p>c. <b>Oral Health Care Integration Workgroup:</b> Nothing to report. The group has not convened since the last MCDAC meeting.</p>

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		d. <b>Provider Network Adequacy Workgroup:</b> Nothing to report. The group has not convened since the last MCDAC meeting.
3:15 PM	Center for Oral Health/Early Smiles Sacramento Update	<p>Presented by Tiffany Turner</p> <p>Early Smiles Sacramento program year is winding down. COH/ESS continues to visit schools across Sacramento County to connect children with oral health services. Through these efforts—and in collaboration with the Sacramento County Oral Health Program, specifically Deborah Blanchard—they have secured a verbal agreement from the superintendent of the Elverta Joint Union School District to shift from active to passive consent for the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA). If approved by the district’s board, all 12 school districts in Sacramento County will participate in passive KOHA consent in 25-26. The Center for Oral Health will be hosting a 40th Anniversary Gala and Symposium on September 18, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, with a focus on older adult oral health. Registration will open in April. For questions, contact Tiffany Turner.</p>
3:20 PM	California Dental Association Update	<p>Presented by Monica Montano</p> <p>Legislative update on AB 350. Shared a sample letter of support for the policy. Introduced SB 530, current legislation focused on time and distance standards for Medi-Cal, which includes a “secret-shopper” enforcement mechanism. California Dental Association (CDA) has not taken a formal position on SB 530 but is actively monitoring the bill. CDA remains highly focused on Medicaid funding. CDA has submitted letters to Congress and state legislators to highlight consequences experienced when adult dental benefits are excluded. CDA plans to continue monitoring developments and will provide updates as new information becomes available.</p> <p> AB 350 Sample Letter.pdf</p>
3:25PM	Sacramento County Oral Health Program Update	No update provided.
3:30 PM	Health Authority Commission Update	<p>Presented by Julie Gallelo</p> <p>The last Health Authority Commission meeting focused on discussing prior challenges and successes of the Health Authority Commission. Nothing further to report.</p>

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3:35 PM	Dental Plan Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liberty Dental updates provided by Dr. Cherag Sarkari.</li><li>• Health Net updates provided by Felisha Scott.</li><li>• Access Dental updates provided by Liz Bishop.</li></ul>
3:50 PM	Announcements/ Public Comment/ Agenda Items	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• James Musser extends congratulations to Cathy Levering and Debra Payne for their contributions to MCDAC and improved access to dental care in Sacramento County.</li><li>• Jonathan Porteus acknowledged the retirement of both Cathy Levering and Robin Muck.</li></ul> <p><b>Agenda Items for June 5, 2024 Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Morgan Musser proposes discussion on dental plan transition.</li><li>• Cathy Levering proposes discussion on hospital operating room time and possible collaboration with Hospital Association.</li></ul>
4:00 PM	Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting adjourned by Jonathan Porteus.</li><li>• Next Meeting June 5th, 2024 2:00 -4:00 pm</li></ul>