

Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 7th, 2025 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

Facilitator: Julie Gallelo, Vice-Chair

Scribe: Alexis Ousley

Members Present:

- Julie Gallelo
- Robin Blanks-Guster
- Michelle Monroe
- Monica Montano
- James Musser
- Morgan Musser
- Sunanda Bandyopadhyay
- Debra Payne
- Cynthia Stuart
- Cherag Sarkari

Members Absent:

- Darrell Kenworthy
- Robyn Alongi
- Jonathan Porteus
- Bilee Hernandez
- Olivia Kasirye

Members Called in:

- David Hughes
- Mary Jess Wilson
- Timothy Martinez
- Shannon McConnell

Zoom Meeting ID: 161 863 4667



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Public Present in person or teleconference:

Sally Chu, Amanda Purcell, Heather Lawler, Brittany Vacura, Emano Shuruq, Sonia Dhillon, Rajur Bhogal, Joseph Canas, Brittany Vacura, Margaret Delmore, Alisha Gutierrez, Amber Kwiecien, Annie Shih, Carol Badgley, Cynthia Yamasaki, Dana Durham, David Ferber, Carolyn Brown, Katrina Eagilen, Lisa B. Nguyen, Santosh Sundaresan, Eddie Hu, Edith Acevedo, Felisha Scott, Judy Lema, Karen Palmiter, Katherine Martinez, Kelsey Peterson, Linh Lee, Melody Law, Paula Lee, Lisa Hooks, Rich Newman, Rhiannon Jordan, Rhoda Gonzales, Rick Callery, Rima Hakim, Rosanna Jackson, Sam Seiden, Shakalpi Pendurkar, Shawn Massey, Susan McLearn, Thomas Lovinger, Yanique Guy, May Saeteurn, Denise Canacari, Destiny Rockwood, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, , Helen Pham.



2:05 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm by Julie Gallelo.
2:08 PM	DHCS Updates	Medi-Cal Dental: CA State Budget and Federal legislation Impacts - Dana Durham reported that the CA state budget for 2025–2026 does not impact Medi-Cal dental. However, in 2026 there will be implications for members with Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (UIS) as well as impacts on Proposition 56 supplemental payments. Effective July 1, full-scope dental coverage will be eliminated for members with UIS aged 19 and older. This population will have access to restricted emergency dental services only. - Supplemental payments for Proposition 56 will end on June 30, 2026, eliminating \$362 million in supplemental payments to providers. - There are no updates regarding Proposition 35; however, DHCS is also monitoring changes related to that legislation. - DHCS has a workgroup dedicated to monitoring HR1. If interested, sign-ups are available on the DHCS website. Dental Managed Care Plan Transition - David Ferber reported that, effective July 1, 2025, Medi-Cal members in Sacramento County will be able to enroll in one of the three contracted managed care plans. - DHCS is monitoring how the transition to managed care plans is affecting continuity of care and access for patients. Detailed transition reports can be found on the DHCS website. Eventually, the goal is to taper off the frequency of these reports as the transition becomes more seamless. - DHCS intends to provide reports on the transition to MCDAC.

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		 Member Health Care Option Packet  Member Health Care Option Packet FFS vs DMC Performance Fact Sheet - As of June 2025, utilization has increased among both children (0–20) and adults (21+) in terms of annual dental visits, preventive services, diagnostic services, treatment services, and exam services. - There has been an increase in member calls from Q4 2024 to Q1 2025. - Spanish is currently the most requested language.  MCDAC-FactSheet-August-2025.pdf
2:10 PM	Approve June 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)	The June 5th, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Committee. Motion to approve: Debra Payne Second: Morgan Musser Motion Carried.
2:40 PM	Approve New MCDAC Member-Matthew Mouille (Dental Plan Representative-DentaQuest) (Action)	The committee considers new membership for Mathew Mouille as the DentaQuest Representative. Motion to approve: Debra Payne Second: James Musser Motion Carried
2:45 PM	San Mateo Health Plan: An Integrated Health Care Model	San Mateo Health Plan Overview presented by Dr. Carolyn Brown. Dr. Carolyn Brown provided background and demographic information on the San Mateo Health Plan, which became one of the first in the nation to fully integrate medical and dental benefits. The program currently serves 140,000 members.

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		The report highlighted the plan's success in medical-dental integration, including efforts in dental provider recruitment, the development of an internal referral system, and various initiatives the plan is currently working on.
3:15 PM	MCDAC Workgroup Updates and Next Steps	 SAC medicaid group aug 2025.ppt General Anesthesia Workgroup - Morgan Musser reported updates for the general anesthesia workgroup. Oral Health Equity Workgroup - Debra Payne provided an update on the Community Health Worker training development. - The workgroup requests time on the agenda in October to provide a demonstration of the training. Oral Health Care Integration Workgroup - Michelle Monroe provided updates, noting that the workgroup met at the end of June and focused on medical-dental integration and discussed the concept of having CHWs in hospitals. Provider Network Adequacy Workgroup - No updates at this time.
3:20PM	Center for Oral Health/Early Smiles Sacramento Update	COH/Early Smiles Sacramento Update provided by Denise Canacari. - Denise Canacari is currently serving as the interim Manager for Early Smiles Sacramento and will be the new point of contact in Sacramento. - COH/ESS resumed school screenings in July—completing two events where nearly 600 students were screened. - Early Smiles is excited to announce they will soon begin offering dental sealant placement. - Early Smiles is hosting their 40th Anniversary Gala, as well as a continuing education event focused on Oral Health and Quality of Life in Older Adults, on September 18, 2025.
3:25 PM	California Dental Association (CDA) Update	Monica Montano reports that CDA is actively monitoring potential changes to Proposition 56 and working quickly to oppose proposed cuts, recognizing that legislation is essential to maintaining access to dental care. It is also noted that while there are no direct impacts from HR1 at this time, there are significant changes occurring within Medicaid. These changes could result in as many as 3.4 million people losing

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		benefits, with changes being phased in over time. CDA urges the committee to continuously monitor key issues such as co-pays, work requirements, and other policy shifts.
3:30 PM	Health Authority Commission Update	Julie Gallelo reports that the Health Authority Commission met in June and is still in the early stages of building infrastructure and developing interrelationships among stakeholders.
3:35 PM	Dental Plan Updates	• Updates were provided by Destiny Rockwood for Liberty Dental. • Updates were provided by Felisha Scott for Health Net Dental Plan. • Updates were provided by Matthew Mouille for DentaQuest.
3:50PM	Announcements/Public Comment	Announcements • No new announcements were made. Public Comment • Dr. James Musser read a letter from Kaiser which states that it is not safe to receive anesthesia from any institution outside a hospital. Kaiser reportedly does not have the capacity to take additional patients for dental procedures.
4:00 PM	Adjournment	• Meeting adjourned by Julie Gallelo. • Next Meeting: October 2, 2025, 2:00 -4:00 pm