

Consumer Protection Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2026, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting location: Sacramento Area Sewer District, 10060 Goethe Rd, Sacramento, Ca 95827

Virtual and telephone participation options offered via Teams.

Attendance

- SCHA Voting Members (in person): Kirti Malhotra, Eddie Kirby, Magarita Dodatko, Nicholas Capistrano
- SCHA Voting Members (by Teams): Kim Williams
- County Staff (in person): Maryam Muslih
- County Staff (by Teams): Jenine Spotnitz, Eduardo Ameneyro, Ethan Dye
- Members of the Public (in person):
- Members of the Public (by Teams): Rana Suliman, Belinda Rolichcheck, Janet Paine, Alana Pfeffinger

1. Welcome, Agenda Review, and Updates

Dr. Kirti Malhotra, CPC Chair, convened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of the 2/27/2026, CPC Meeting Minutes

Action: Approval of the February 27, 2026, SCHA CPC meeting minutes.

Public Comments: Chair Malhotra called for public comments; none received.

Motion: Commissioner Capistrano

Second: Commissioner Dr. Malhotra

Vote: A roll call vote was taken.

Outcome: Motion carried.

3. Discussion: Review and Discuss DHA's Responses to CPC Questions, CPC Advocacy Request, and Updates on DHA Planning with Managed Care Plans (MCPs) – *Dr. Kirti Malhotra, DHA staff Cathi Aurich and Scott Grantham, MCP Representatives*

Key Points Presented:

Redetermination Process (DHA)

- DHA described how redetermination timelines are controlled by the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS).
- Automated redetermination occurs 90 days prior to the due date.
- If verification is not possible, a renewal packet is automatically mailed 30 days before the

due date.

- Assembly Bill HR-1 introduces a six-month redetermination cycle.

State and Federal Authority

- DHA stated that all Medi-Cal eligibility timelines are governed by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).
- DHA does not have discretion to alter statutory timelines.
- Some future direction depends on federal guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

MCP–County Coordination on Messaging

- A summary was provided of a recent meeting between MCPs and DHA regarding Medi-Cal redetermination messaging.
- DHA is developing a centralized webpage with Managed Care Plans' links and information.
- MCPs agreed to coordinate messaging and reduce duplicative outreach to prevent confusion.
- Consistent tools and messaging for Enhanced Care Management (ECM) providers and community-based organizations (CBOs) are planned.
- MCPs and DHA intend to reconvene in Quarter 2 (Q2) 2026.

Centralized Medi-Cal Redetermination Webpage

- DHA reported that a county webpage is being developed to host consistent Medi-Cal redetermination information and MCP links.
- Timeline updates will be provided at future meetings.

4. Unified Messaging for Beneficiaries

- The Committee highlighted that beneficiaries often receive conflicting information.
- Suggestions included expanding webpage visibility through hospital partners and referencing the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Coverage Ambassadors program.

5. Presentation and Discussion: Medi-Cal Redetermination Presentation for Sacramento County School District – *Liza Thornton, Legal Services of Northern California*

A presentation was provided on Medi-Cal redetermination processes and related changes affecting Sacramento County school districts.

The presentation included:

- An overview of Medi-Cal redetermination requirements and processes
- Information on upcoming HR-1 changes that may affect eligibility and timelines
- Considerations for communicating redetermination information to school-based staff and families
- Challenges related to explaining complex changes such as immigrant eligibility, asset

limits, and retroactive coverage

- The need for clear, simplified materials to support community outreach

6. Public Comment – *One comment per person, limited to two minutes.*

There were no public comments.

7. Next Steps and Adjournment – *Dr. Kirti Malhotra*

- The Department of Human Assistance (DHA) will continue development of the centralized Medi-Cal redetermination webpage and provide updates at future meetings.
- Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and DHA will reconvene in Quarter 2 2026 to continue coordinated messaging efforts.
- Ongoing work will continue to improve access to beneficiary renewal information for community-based organizations (CBOs).
- Work on the Sacramento Health Exchange (SHE) data platform will continue, including discussions with Kaiser Permanente regarding participation.
- Legislative advocacy options related to Release of Information (ROI) will be explored.
- Future agenda items will include topics identified during discussion, including ROI processes, renewal date access, and outreach coordination.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.