

Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 2, 2026 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sacramento County Public Health Education Programs

7001-A East Parkway – Conference Room 1

Sacramento CA 95823

Zoom Meeting ID: 160 013 0463

Facilitator: Jonathan Porteus, Chair

Scribe: Jennifer Fitzpatrick

Members Present:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| • James Musser | • Caroll Badgley | • Cynthia Stuart | • Michelle Monroe |
| • Olivia Kasirye | • Julie Gallelo | • Shannon McConnell | |
| • Jonathan Porteus | • Monica Montano | • Debra Payne | |
| • Cynthia Johnston | • Darrell Kenworthy | • Matthew Mouille | |
| • Sunanda | • Timothy Martinez | • Cherag Sarkari | |
| Bandyopadhyay | • Robin Blanks-Guster | • Morgan Musser | |

Members Absent:

- Bilee Hernandez
- Denise Canacari

Members Called in:

- Mary Jess Wilson
- Judy Lema

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Public Present in person or teleconference: Alisha Gutierrez, Bakir Abduljabbar, Brandie

Dunlap, Brendan John, Brittany Vacura, Candace Oto, David Ferber, Darren Vinson, Debbie

Blanchard, Destiny Rockwood, Eddie Hu, Edith Acevedo, Eric Dowdy, Felicia Scott, Helen Pham, Heather Castiaux, Imelda Martinez, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Jessica Jorquera, Joseph Canas, Julia Gusina, Kelsey Peterson, Kimberly Arredondo- Blanco, Kimberly Steele, Kim Benton, Lauren Overton, Laura Valle, Lisa Nguyen, Margaret Delmore, Marcus Kasper, Michael Tavallaci, Pana Lee, Paul Glassman, Paula Lee, Rima Hakim, Rhoda Gonzales, Rick Callery, Roberto Garces, Rosanna Jackson, Rose Aarons, Santosh Sundaresan, Sam Seiden, Susan McLearn, Tara Good-Young, Valerie Garza.

2:00	Welcome and Introductions	Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by Jonathan Porteus. Brief introductions held for all attendees in the room.
2:05	Approve Meeting Minutes (Action)	February 5, 2026 minutes reviewed by the Committee. Moved to approve: Debra Payne Second: Robin Blanks-Guster Vote: All in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion Carried.
2:10	Approve 2025 MCDAC Report to the Legislature (Action)	2025 Report to the Legislature included in committee packets for review. Moved to approve: Debra Payne Second: Julie Gallelo Vote: All in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion Carried.
2:12	Approve Term Renewal for Existing MCDAC Member (Action)	Renewal: Debra Payne (Member-at-Large) Moved to approve: Dr. Bandyopadhyay Second: Robin Blanks-Guster Vote: All in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion Carried.
2:15	Approve New MCDAC Members (Action)	Sam Arnold (Community Dental Clinic - Sacramento Native American Health Center) Moved to approve: Jim Musser Second: Michelle Monroe. Vote: All in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion Carried. Julia Gusina (Community Dental Clinic- Elica Health Centers) Moved to approve: Robin Blanks-Guster Second: Dr. Bandyopadhyay Vote: All in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion Carried.

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2:20	Discuss MCDAC Letter to the Legislature to Oppose Elimination of Prop 56 Supplemental Payments in the State's May Budget Revise	• The committee anticipates significant system disruption if Prop 56 supplemental payments are eliminated. • Reports from recent state budget hearings indicate strong public support for maintaining Prop 56. • Emergency department dental visits would dramatically increase if Prop 56 eliminated due to provider shortages. ▪ Testimony shared that ER visits cost approximately \$2,453 per dental episode and do not resolve underlying dental issues. • Loss of Prop 56 would cause: ▪ Provider disenrollment ▪ Reduced capacity for anesthesia cases ▪ Increased ER burden ▪ Loss of federal matching dollars ▪ Compounding effects on hospitals already in financial distress • Group strongly supports continued use of the December letter to the Legislature, adapting language as needed following May Revise. Moved to approve: Cynthia Stuart Second: Debra Payne Vote: All in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion Carried. • Members encouraged to attend the Joint Budget Hearing on May 6 and Senate Budget Hearing on May 9.
2:35	MCDAC Workgroup Updates and Next Steps	a. Navigating Threats to Medi-Cal Coverage Workgroup • no update b. General Anesthesia Workgroup • Morgan Musser shared real-case images demonstrating severe pediatric dental infections. ○ Children with untreated dental abscesses are at risk of airway compromise, sepsis, and long-term damage (e.g., loss of mandible). ○ Without Prop 56 funding, children like these will be pushed to emergency rooms, which cannot treat dental disease beyond antibiotics and analgesics. • Regional Center parent shared testimony regarding reliance on dental anesthesia for medically complex adults with disabilities. c. Oral Health Equity Workgroup • Presenter: Deborah Payne, with comments from Dr. Paul Glassman

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- Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Program
 - CHW training ready for launch; includes full oral-health-focused CHW certificate.
 - Meets statewide CHW requirements.
 - Will enable billing for CHW-provided services.
 - First beta training completed with Riverside home-visiting program; highly positive reviews.
- Water Fluoridation Activities
 - Workgroup tracking expiring Sacramento water district fluoridation contracts (2027–2035).
 - Sacramento County staff conducting site visits and engaging with water districts to encourage continuation of fluoridation.
- d. Oral Health Care Integration Workgroup
 - Presenter: Tim Martinez
 - Projects Underway:
 - ED dental diversion and follow-up pathway
 - Embedding oral health screening into adult primary care
 - Integrated medical-dental care pathways
 - Highlights:
 - Workgroup aligning data with managed care plans.
 - Will present outcome data at future meetings.
 - Identified strong opportunities for ED diversion and prevention.
- e. Provider Network Adequacy Workgroup
 - Presenter: Cordia Losh
 - Workgroup planning joint adequacy analysis with DMC plans.
 - Two new data elements proposed:
 - Unique patient encounters per provider
 - Total encounters per provider
 - Goal: support planning for Prop 56-related provider loss and identify geographic gaps.

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2:50	Dental Managed Care: Care Coordination Processes & Referral Pathways	Liberty Dental – Care Coordination & Case Management Case_Management_MCDAC_Liberty.pdf Presenter: Dr. Cherag Sarkari • Hybrid nurse-led case management model. • Intake → risk stratification → care plan → follow-up for 18 months. • Strong integration with social determinants of health. DentaQuest – Specialty Referral & Member Support Presenter: DentaQuest Team • Direct provider-to-provider referral workflows. • Member-facing referral QR code developed. • Translation/transportation needs incorporated. • Expanded specialty placement support in response to committee feedback. Health Net Dental – Care Coordination & ED Data Use Presenter: Felisha Scott • Uses real-time ADT hospital data to identify members presenting to ER for dental pain. • Proactive outreach to redirect to dental care. • Pilot with large pediatric practice to perform missed-visit outreach.
3:25	CDA Update	Presented by Monica Montano • The Save Our Dental Care coalition now includes 100+ organizations. • Approximately 2,000 letters have been sent to legislators statewide. • Upcoming hearings where Prop 56 will be discussed: ○ Assembly Budget Hearing on May 6th at 2:30 p.m. ○ Senate Budget Committee Hearing on May 9 • Monica encouraged broad participation and noted both hearings are equally important in the budget process. • Members discussed the strain on hospital emergency departments when patients seek care for dental emergencies.

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3:30	Center for Oral Health/Early Smiles Sacramento Update	Presented by Brendan John • ESS program transitioning from grant-funded to billing-sustained model. • Screening staff reduced due to funding shifts. • Discussed impacts on KOHA and school partnerships. • Dental Plans exploring MDRAN 2.0 depending on outcomes. • COH to return with sustainability update in 2–3 months.
3:35	Health Authority Commission Update	Presented by Julie Gallelo The Health Authority Commission meets next week so update will be provided at the next MCDAC meeting.
3:38	Sacramento County Oral Health Program Update	Presented by Cynthia Johnston • The Oral Health program is developing a three-part comprehensive Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) training series in partnership with Dr. Glassman and Cal Northstate. • Training will be open to all school districts, nurses, dental providers, school-based dental programs, and community partners. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for nurses and dental professionals.
3:40	Dental Plan Updates	Presented by Destiny Rockwood (Liberty), Felisha Scott (Health Net), Matthew Mouille (DentaQuest) • Dentaquest: ○ Six-week oral health marketing campaign underway; first-dental-visit campaign (ages 0–3) running through April 23. ○ Strong community outreach: 19 Q1 events, 17 planned for Q2, with positive engagement and use of educational materials. ○ Teledentistry utilization steady at 242 March visits; mostly preventive; no ER referrals. ○ ICD-10 pilot continuing with Health Net; 67 providers trained, additional sessions scheduled. ○ Network expanded by 500 providers in Q1; strong participation at recent dental conventions and STDS Midwinter • Liberty: ○ Liberty participated in the SDDS Midwinter event, engaging with providers and addressing Medi-Cal and Prop 56 questions. ○ Added 17 general providers and 2 offices over the last two months; completed 488 provider

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		service calls, 51 visits, and 3 provider trainings. ○ Conducted 28 community events, reaching 1,100+ individuals, providing screenings, fluoride applications, and hygiene materials; outreach focused on diverse populations including families, seniors, and unhoused residents. ○ Teledentistry volume included 15 visits; continued text-based oral health education outreach. ○ Ongoing ICD-10 pilot and value-based “Brush” program; clarified billing guidance that GMC members must be billed through their GMC dental plan, not fee-for-service. ● Health Net: ○ Health Net is using real-time emergency department (ADT) data to identify members with dental-related ER visits; 136 unique dental-related ER cases were identified in January, and outreach is underway to connect members to dental care. ○ Oral health assessment outreach is now bi-directional, integrating medical and dental data so members triggering dental needs on either side receive follow-up and appointment navigation. ○ A new QIP pilot with a large Sacramento pediatric practice will conduct coordinated outreach to children without a dental visit in 12 months, combining plan-level and office-level reminders. ○ Community Advisory Committee meetings have been integrated with medical CAC sessions, improving the ability to address dental questions and support care navigation. ○ Health Net continues participating in community events but focused this update on care coordination and case management activities.
3:53	Announcements	Public Comment ● Comments of support for maintaining Prop 56 and protecting anesthesia services. ● Urged committee to support carve-outs for children age 7 and under if payments are eliminated. Agenda items for June 4 meeting: ● Recognition of Dr. Kasirye’s retirement and contributions to MCDAC
4:00	Adjournment	● Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm by Jonathan Porteus. ● Next Meeting June 4, 2026 at 2:00 -4:00 pm, East Parkway.