



MINUTES
CenCal Health
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
COMMUNITY CALAIM STEERING COMMITTEE
May 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Community CalAIM Steering Committee of Santa Barbara County was called to order by Marina Owen on May 16, 2024, at 1:03 PM at the CenCal Health Offices, 4050 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA.

KEY DISCUSSION TAKEAWAYS:

- Focusing on Children & Youth by co-hosting First 5 San Luis Obispo
- Shared CalAIM Impact Sheet that detailed 2,424 members receiving Community Supports.
- Information on [Enhanced Care Management \(ECM\) and Community Supports \(CS\) Providers](#)
- CHCF Survey findings were shared to explain how CalAIM providers are doing.
- May Revise memo shared to discuss recent announcements regarding the state budget.
- CenCal Health focuses on rigorous quality measurement standards such as HEDIS and CAHPS to ensure high standards of care.
- Significant youth demographic ages 0-21 make up 47% of CenCal Health membership.
- Comprehensive support by First 5 of Santa Barbara County for Medi-Cal members, ages 0-21.

Mr. Gomez welcomed everyone to the Santa Barbara County Community CalAIM Steering Committee and welcomed new attendees, members, and guests.

Ms. Owen reported details of the May Revise memo:

- A brief overview of the recently reported budget shortfall and the three impacted items.
- While CenCal Health is not an expert on the budget we thought it beneficial to discuss the impact.
- The Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax will not be re-invested for CY2025.
- The proposed reduction of the Equity in Practice Transformation (EPT) program.
- Eligibility for In-Home Support Services for undocumented individuals is proposed to be eliminated.
- No other impacts to CalAIM stated in the preliminary May Revise as a draft for the proposed budget.

Discussion:

Toni Navarro commented that she was sad about the MCO's proposed cut as it would affect the behavioral wellness department. She shared the effects on other items that have been swept and still hopes that some decisions to be made will not affect the Behavioral Wellness Department. She will be focused on balancing expectations.

Dana Gamble spoke about "take-backs" and the effects on staffing and EPT funding's effects on programs.

Maria Gardner shared that CalWorks is a resource support team as an essential part of mental healthcare services. The staffing from Public Health is heavily relied upon. Continuous Coverage for children 0-5 years and share of cost coverage.

Toni Navarro clarified that these are not specialty health services but mild to moderate mental health care needs.

Ms. Owen reported the following will be shared at today's convening:

- Successes in the CalAIM Impact Summary after 18 months of serving almost 2,500 members including a video highlighting one of our community partners.
- As of July 1, 2024, all 14 of the State's Community Supports offerings, serving 10 of the Populations of Focus (PoFs), will be offered.
- Today's convening will focus on Children & Youth with a report from Wendy Sims-Moten from First 5 of Santa Barbara County.
- Also, a report on the future care of our 65+ population will be shared by our COO, Jordan Turetsky.

Dr. Do-Reynoso reported the following:

- A resource list that includes the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) providers and details of their support, contact information, and more.
- A resource list that includes the Community Supports (CS) providers and details of their support, their contact information, and more.
- Survey results from the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) that gathered information from 1,196 respondents working at managed care plans, behavioral health organizations, community-based organizations, and health and social services organizations. Central Coast Implementers focuses on findings from the tri-county area. The survey showed the following key takeaways:
 - Increased familiarity with CalAIM.
 - Alignment with CalAIM goals.
 - Better coordination of services (higher than the state average).
 - Surer about services to people experiencing homelessness (significantly higher than the state average).
 - Improvements in overall experience in Latinx and populations whose primary language isn't English.
 - Improving the ability to serve clients.
 - Favorable partnership via communication and trust (significantly higher than the state average).

Children & Youth in Focus CenCal Health's Perspective

Ms. Owen shared CenCal Health's responsibility to ensure access to timely effective quality healthcare for Medi-Cal members via:

- Adequate provider network for preventive, medical & behavioral health services
- Transportation to care
- Interpretation and translation services
- Social determinants of health
- Whole Child Model

A breakdown of membership of Children & Youth:

- 47% of CenCal Health's members are 0-21 years of age, breakdown detailed:
 - Age 0-5 – 12%
 - Age 6-11 – 13%
 - Age 12-21 – 22%

Ms. Owen gave a detailed presentation of the quality measurement, key measurements of performance, and emerging 2024 priorities:

Quality Measurement:

- Testing by The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) exists to improve the quality of health care by creating standards and measuring performance by collecting data via the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS).

- Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) evaluates consumers and patients about their experiences with health care.
- CenCal Health exceeded DHCS's standard in children's health quality.

2023 CAHPS: Performance & Opportunities:

- CAHPS is administered to the 24 health plans in California, by the State.
- Out of 24 California health plans, CenCal Health ranks:
 - #2 in getting care quickly for children.
 - #4 in the overall rating of health plans for children.
- Opportunities for improvement include:
 - Increased pediatric access, availability, and quality care.
 - Increased member satisfaction with pediatric care.
 - Improve transportation experiences.

Serving Children and Youth include:

- Medi-Cal for Children
- California Children's Services (CCS)
- CalAIM

CalAIM for Children & Youth:

- Community Supports (CS) that benefit C&Y are eligible for:
 - Asthma Remediation
 - Housing Navigation
 - Housing Tenancy & Sustaining Services
 - Housing Deposits
 - Caregiver Respite
- Enhanced Care Management (ECM) that benefits C&Y are eligible for:
 - Enhanced Care Management provides coordination of health and social services for the highest-need populations.
 - Whole-person focused and meeting members where they are.
 - Able to select Populations of Focus.

Focus & Collaboration

- Expanding ECM Provider Network to serve Children and Youth, especially those in foster care.
- Engaging eligible Children & Youth in ECM.
- Increase Well-Child Visits for 0-30 months.
- Strengthen school-based behavioral health.
- Developmental Screening.

Discussion:

Maria Gardner asked if the ECM includes child welfare or foster care. Talk about linkages offline.

Dana Gamble – Just starting ECM learning, how hard would it be for us as an ECM provider to add serving children in foster care? Will take off-line with Cathy and the team. Shared about the HCPCFC Program.

MaryEllen Rehse commented on focus and collaboration and how do we partner with and support how people could best be served with ECM benefits as a CHW.

Edwin Weaver Fighting Back partners with the school districts in the invisible achievement gap and is excited that this is being talked about.

Lindsay Walter we all came together to do a landscape analysis on Justice-Involved, questioning about doing that same structure and trust-building caring for children and families. Maybe even a landscape analysis.

Dr. Madhi Ashrafian asked how to approach and enroll children by going through the parents.

Edwin Weaver suggested a CALVIP program to help with outreach to parents regarding enrollment, and treatment for children.

First 5 San Luis Obispo County

Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director

- **First 5 of Santa Barbara County: Celebrating 25 years!**
 - Investment in the early years yields long-term wellbeing of our children and families, changing the trajectory of communities.
 - First 5 is an independent public agency created in 1998 by CA's Proposition 10, serving children from prenatal through five years of age.
- **Proposition 10** was voted in by California voters in 1998. The California Children and Families Act, now known as First 5, was established with the overarching goal to improve the lives of young children ages prenatal through 5 and their families, and to ensure California's children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

Focus Areas:

- **Improved Child Development** Children enter school socially-emotionally and cognitively ready to participate and access the Kindergarten curriculum fully.
- **Improved Family Resiliency** Children are members of safe, stable, and nurturing families.
- **Improved Child Health** Children enter School with their developmental, health and safety needs met.
- **Improved Systems of Care** The Community in which children live provides accessible and relevant support for child development, health, and family functioning.

Strategies:

- **Engage** Collaborate, facilitate, and participate. Act as an "early responder" to the emerging trends of young children in Santa Barbara County and convene partners for efficiency and scale.
- **Invest & Support** Invest to build system capacity, support innovation, address emerging needs, and contribute to existing systems that address the needs of children, families, and the early childhood sector.
- **Measure** Provide information on children from birth through age five for Santa Barbara County that furthers the strengthening of systems affecting the early years.
- **Communicate** Provide messaging and education opportunities to families, educators, and the greater community that support school readiness and impact policy development.

Community Needs and Issues for Children and Families

Continuing:

- Childcare
- Housing
- Provider Burnout
- Development Screening
- Healthcare – Medi-Cal
- Managed Care
- Billing for Mental Health Prevention

Emerging:

- Increasing Crisis in Early Mental Health
- Provider and Resource Shortage in North County
- Fewer Providers Willing to take Medi-Cal
- Continuous Medi-Cal Coverage
- New Partnerships in the Community – American Academy of Pediatrics Santa Barbara
- First 5 Strategic Planning

Opportunities

Align and collaborate with CenCal Health to address the health needs of children ages 0-5 and their families, and to ensure children are supported by an accessible early intervention system so they may achieve their greatest potential.

- **Help Me Grow:**
 - First 5 SBC and Help Me Grow as linked efforts to improve and expand systems of care.
 - Non-legislative engagement with Medicaid Managed Care plans.
 - Funding Sources/Structure
- **Home Visitation:**
 - Santa Barbara County Home Visitation Action Plan
 - Strategic Plan for Piloting Coordinated Home Visitation
 - Tri-Counties Home Visitation Workforce Development Project
 - Fund Sources/Structure

Policy As a Key Lever for Change: *Protecting Critical Services for California's Youngest Children*

Policy and advocacy must be a priority for everyone working in early childhood. Policy solutions arise from the local level – from family and provider truth-telling about barriers and challenges.

CSC Perspectives & Input

1. Who are the community providers and partners that CenCal Health should connect with as a part of its CalAIM efforts, e.g.,
 - a. Developmental screening?
 - b. Foster youth?
 - c. School-based mental health?
2. What are the opportunities to better link or leverage existing child/family community-based services or programs with CenCal Health and the health care delivery system?

Responses:

Edwin Weaver suggested including Fighting Back, County Neighborhood Resource Centers (FSA), YMCA Channel Islands, Kids Network, Foster Families Agency (FFA), Angels Foster Care, STRTPs – Changing Faces, and Hope Refuge.

Dana Gamble suggested including TCRC (developmental screening), Independent Resource Center, Alpha Resource Center, Transitional Youth Services, IV Youth Project. Also, asked if CenCal Health is already part of the Kids Network.

Lindsay Walter keeping in mind the future vision from the client/family perspective to include PEP Group(s).

Wendy Sims-Moten suggested school-based wellness centers, to keep youth outreach workers from the COVID time.

Toni Navarro Connect with parents and serve children in a setting where more than one language is being spoken in the home environment. Remember to include those who can speak the language in all settings to serve families appropriately.

Scott Black would like to know more about the school-based mental health services. The FQHCs are designed to bridge that gap if we can find a way to make that happen. The FQHCs are the best way to approach this work.

Dr. Van Do-Reynoso CenCal Health is working with school districts through the Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP) at four (4) schools.

Medicare Dual Special Needs Plan (D-SNP): An Introduction

Jordan Turetsky, Chief Operating Officer

This topic was deferred to the August 22 meeting of the Santa Barbara County Community CalAIM Steering Committee convening.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm on May 16, 2024, by Marina Owen, Chief Executive Officer.

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2024

August 21 (SLO) & August 22 (SB)

November 6 (SLO) & November 7 (SBC)