

Merced County Health Care Consortium – Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2015 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Merced County Public Health Department - Auditorium, First Floor
260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA 95341

Attendees: Maria Camargo (Nurse Family Partnership); Karen Black (Beacon Health Options); Kristynn Sullivan, Marianne Biangone, Kathleen Grassi, Katy Oestman, Cindy Valencia (Merced County Department of Public Health); Veronica Chavez (Livingston Community Health); Kathleen McCarthy, Jennifer Mockus, Gabina Villanueva (Central California Alliance for Health); Isai Palma, Jose Miramontes (Building Healthy Communities); Lupe Delgado (Parent Institute for Quality Education); Irene Miranda-Henson (Mercy Merced Rural Health Clinic); Nai Saechao (Healthy House); Stacy Anderson (Blue Shield of California); Palee Moua (BHC Health Equity Project); Joel Diringer (Diringer and Associates); Carolyn Nazabal (Memorial Hospital of Los Banos); Karen Gillian (WIC)

Welcome and Introductions (Joel Diringer, Diringer and Associates, Facilitator; All)

Health Care Coverage

- **State Budget and Policy Update** (Joel Diringer, Diringer and Associates) (*Attachment: Power Point*)
- Covered California enrollment period is November 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016. Medi-Cal enrollment is year round.
- All children will be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal beginning May 2016, regardless of immigration status.
- CHDP Gateway is now limited to twice a year.
- Full-scope Medi-Cal pregnancy coverage is expanded to all women under 138% of FPL.
- The Managed Care Organization tax is stalled.
- Drug-Medi-Cal waiver is approved in California.

- **Health4All Campaign Update** (Isai Palma, Building Healthy Communities)
 - In June California became the first state to expand health care to undocumented children; Senator Canella supported the state legislation. Approximately 3,000 children will gain coverage but, approximately 10,000 parents will still be uncovered.
 - Health4All will be looking to county coverage for the remaining undocumented.
Action: If you would like to join in these efforts please join the Prevention Action Team on the first and third Wednesday's of the month at 10am at United Way.

- **Outreach & Enrollment Sub-committee** (Katy Oestman, Merced County Department of Public Health)
 - The Outreach and Education Sub-committee has been meeting the past several months. Their focus this year is shifting from enrollment into Medi-Cal to utilization of health insurance benefits.
 - The latest meeting of the committee focused on learning about DACA requirements as there have been a lot of questions about the requirements at the local clinics. The California Rural Legal Assistance program spoke at the September meeting.
 - Additionally the group has been learning about nontraditional outreach approaches and new opportunities for partnerships.
 - **Next meeting:** Friday, December 11th, 2015 at 11:30am at the Merced County Department of Public Health.

Prevention Activities

- **Building a Community Health Worker Network** (Katy Oestman) (*Attachment: Power Point*)
- History and background of CHWs around the world was provided.
- There are many models that have worked in various communities, states and localities throughout the United States.
- Over the next several years the Public Health Department will be collaborating with community partners to build a network including training, certification, competencies, recruiting, reimbursement and evaluation.

- Several grants are active currently at the Public Health Department to support these efforts including one federal grant (Partnerships to Improve Community Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), one state grant (Lifetime of Wellness through CDPH), and one foundation grant (Blue Shield of California Foundation).
- **Health Information Exchange** (Alex Horowitz, Intrepid Ascent) (*Attachment: Power Point*)
- Health Information Exchange (HIE) allows providers, clinics, hospitals, etc. to access data on patients.
- Outcomes can include better coordinated client care, cost savings, more efficient care
- Merced County has no HIE, there are systems under development in San Joaquin County and Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings Counties that utilize the same platform. This could potentially be a huge benefit to care for the Central Valley population across counties.
- An HIE Stakeholders group is meeting quarterly and a Steering Committee is meeting more often.
- **Nurse Family Partnership Program** (Maria Camargo, Nurse Family Partnership National Service Office; Marianne Biangone, Merced County Department of Public Health) (*Attachment: Power Point*)
- Maria gave background on the history of the NFP Program, it is evidence based home visiting program for first time moms, based on Dr. Olds' research. Research has proved the program to be a cost savings of \$1 investment realizing \$4.20 of savings.
- Marianne gave Merced County context. There are currently 100 mothers being served with 4 fulltime nurses in the program locally.
- **Medi-Cal Capacity Grant Program** (Kathleen McCarthy, Central California Alliance for Health) (*Attachment: Power Point*)
- The Alliance is investing to grow local capacity in three areas: provider capacity, behavioral health/substance use disorder services, and high utilizer support resources. There are specific funding opportunities within each area.
- Grant applications will be reviewed quarterly.
- <http://www.ccah-alliance.org/grantprogram.html>

Next Meeting: January 28, 2016 at 11:30am-1:30pm

All meeting materials can be found at www.co.merced.ca.us/publichealth under the Merced County Health Care Consortium tab.