



## Connection Coalition

August 10, 2020 | 12:00 pm - 1:00pm

Via Zoom Video Conference

### Minutes

#### Participants:

Theresa Comstock  
Cheyanne Cook  
Rebecca Gonzales  
Christine Graham  
Randall Hagar  
Carol Hood  
Sam Knudson  
Amanda Levy  
Justin May  
Patricia McDaid O'Neill  
Elizabeth Oseguera  
Curtis Paullins  
Thomas Renfree  
Heidi Strunk  
Paige Talley  
Brooke Witz

1. **Welcome, Introductions by Randall Hagar**
2. **Review and approval of July 13, 2020 meeting minutes**
  - a. Motion to approve minutes as submitted by Theresa Comstock. Second by Patricia McDaid O'Neill. Motion carried.
3. **Additional Agenda Items?**
  - a. Nothing was offered by the group.
4. **California Budget Issues from Members**
  - a. R. Hagar offered nothing to report on his end other than a couple of trailer bills of no real interest.
  - b. Budget income projections have exceeded assumptions made when the budget was approved.
  - c. R. Gonzalez noted potential for Senate hearings on Saturday at 9:00am.
5. **Anticipated changes in Medi-Cal and the pharmacy benefit – Update**
  - a. R. Hagar: Getting updates from DHCS but nothing that's new for behavioral health.
  - b. E. Oseguera: Trailer bill language added in in July to create a stakeholder process for supplemental payments for health providers through non hospital health centers. Supplemental payments of \$105 million, per year with half coming from a federal match. The language specifies methodology must be developed on how funds are re-distributed to the health centers. Was supposed to be completed by July 15<sup>th</sup> now hoping methodology developed by end of October. They have members on advisory Medi-Cal, RX, Pharmacy transition committee and the transition period has been extended from 90 days to 120 and then to 180 which CPCA is quite happy about. Also, lots happening with manufacturers, etc.

<http://www.mhac.org/connection-coalition/>

- c. P. Talley: CalAIM has been holding stakeholder meetings and Danny Offer with NAMI was on the last call and asked DHCS about a waiver. DHCS must ask to extend current 1115 waivers to extend current programs because some were going away under CalAIM. DHCS indicated that waiver materials and updates are on their website, but many waiver requests so far have not been accepted. Pharmacy workgroup has been meeting, aim is to make all medications fee for service. CalAIM process has restarted and is extending their meetings and deadlines.
  - i. T. Renfree: DHCS webpage called 'Medi-Cal 2020' is where they are posting waiver information.
  - ii. E. Oseguera: Google Medi-Cal RX to find that page.
  - iii. **R. Hagar indicated that the pages on the DHCS webpages don't seem to be current**
- 6. Other Current Challenges Affecting Access to Treatment/Prescriptions
  - a. Access to Long Acting Injectables (LAIs)
    - i. R. Hagar: No changes in access to LAIs, Federal government extended its declaration of public emergency so there is no looming deadline.
  - b. Telehealth Update
    - i. No news so this item was deferred.
- 7. Legislation, Status on the following:
  - a. [AB-1710](#) (Wood) Pharmacy practice: vaccines.
    - i. R. Hagar: No hearing set. P. Talley: Concur and is surprised. Board of Pharmacy will be offering legislation. CPHA voted to include AB-1710 into their proposed legislation.
  - b. [AB-2100](#) (Wood) Pharmacy Benefits
    - i. Set for hearing on August 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. P. Talley: My group is in support. It takes away the six script limit for outpatients, and does away with \$1 copay.
    - iii. R. Hagar noted continuity of care provision, drug will be continued for a minimum of 180 days or until no longer prescribed, whichever is shorter.
  - c. [SB-855](#) (Weiner) Health coverage: mental health or substance abuse disorders.
    - i. Passed out of Senate Health 13-0, date to be set in Appropriations.
      - 1. T. Renfree: Any sense of Governor's position? R. Hagar: DMHC had amendments they would like to see. Not necessarily a green light but a welcoming stance on part of the administration.
  - d. Facility bills per Teresa Comstock:
    - i. T. Comstock: All 3 bills noted below seem to be moving forward. Federal funding is available to help shore up board & cares that are closing around the state. Bills are looking to inform/shape models. Possibility of purchasing facilities by public entities.
      - 1. [SB-1259](#) (Hurtado) Licensed adult residential facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly: SSI/SSP recipients: requires a report detailing local capacity.
        - a. Scheduled for Assembly Appropriations committee tomorrow (Aug 11<sup>th</sup>)
      - 2. [AB-2377](#) (Chiu) Adult residential facilities: closures and resident transfers. Authorizes local authorities to have right of refusal to operate failing facilities.
        - a. In Senate Human Services Committee this morning.
      - 3. [AB-1766](#) (Bloom) Licensed adult residential facilities and residential care facilities. Requires data collection for facilities housing persons with severe mental illness.
        - a. In Senate Human Services Committee this morning.
  - e. Other bills?
    - i. P. Talley thinks it will be a heck of a year next year with tons of bills anticipated because of this year's curtailed legislative session.
    - ii. T. Renfree: Wanted to bring AB-1304 California MAT Re-Entry Incentive Program to the attention of the attendees. It provides reductions in the period of parole if parolees are in treatment for substance use, including medication assisted treatment. Would help with

early release for folks on MAT. R. Hagar: Modeled on Kentucky program. Post release outpatients who continue treatment could reduce their probation period.

1. S. Knudson: How does it differ from AB 2933 (Parole reintegration credits)

a. T. Renfree: AB2933 is a broader bill where AB1304 is specific to MAT.

b. The bill is not moving forward.

iii. R. Hagar: AB 1976 passed out of policy committee and heading to a hearing in Appropriations Committee.

iv. R. Hagar: AB 2015 has been referred to a committee hearing

8. Coalition for Whole Health (CWH) Update

a. No report for the June call, Carol was not able to participate.

b. July meeting postponed. No report.

c. C. Hood: Extended discussions happening in the next few weeks on racial inequities for next meeting.

i. R. Hagar: Will there be a work product on the racial inequity issue? Carol believes there will be but cannot say with certainty.

d. R. Hagar: CWH is a national coalition, very broad stakeholder group? C. Hood: Correct, typically meet 1 hour by phone monthly and have quarterly meetings with high level government officials/agencies.

9. Next meeting is on September 14th - Conference Call via Zoom