



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Name: Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: Noon – 2 p.m.

Partnership Locations:

- 4605 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534 (Conference Room A, B, C)
- 2525 Airpark Drive, Redding, CA 96001 (Airpark Conference Room)
- 1000 Fortress Street, Chico, CA 95973 (Feather River Conference Room)
- 1036 5th Street Suite E, Eureka, CA 95501 (Sue_meg Conference Room)
- 495 Tesconi Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (Santa Rosa Conference Room)
- 281 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA 95603 (Lincoln Conference Room)

Alternate Locations:

- Northeastern Rural Health Clinics – 1850 Spring Ridge Drive, Susanville, CA 96130

Partnership HealthPlan Attendees: Amanda Cornelius, Amanda Peters, Andrew Gerber, Anthony Sackett, Autumn Monson, Brandi Walker, Brittany Spears, Caleb Davis, Carmen Muñoz, Ciara Rejefski, Cyress Mendiola, Edna Villaseñor, Elizabeth Garcia, Gabrielle Breshears, Greg Cafiero, Hannah O’Leary, Ileana Hernandez, Jennifer Forehand, Jesus Hermosillo, Jill Blake, Jocelyn Hooper, Joel Schwartz, John Lemoine, Jose Puga, Karla Marquez, Kathryn Power, Krystal Johnson, Lauren Mahoney, Leigha Andrews, Madison Clark, Dr. Matthew Morris, Melissa Schumann, Michele Grupe, Monica Uribe, Onyi Okorie, Rebecca Stark, Ryan Ciulla, Shahrukh Chishty, Sunshine Jackson, Tim Sharp, Vicky Klakken; **Spanish Interpreters:** Guillermo Rodriguez, Jorge Rosas

Virtual Committee Attendees: Catherine Collins, Jackie Berg

Committee Attendees: Adrene Ryan, Annette Lack, Beverly Franklin, Brion Burkett, Eli Seigel, Ellen Payton, Eugene Korte, Guadalupe Alvarado, Harry Boggs, Itha “Bev” Banghart, Jaime Yan Faurot, Jason Faurot, Jennifer “Jenny” Bentrim, Lulu Zhang, Marcelo “Nunie” Matta, Margaret Sager, Michael Strain, Nani Mingo, Perry Tripp, Raichael Stewart, Sol McNally, Wendy Longwell, William “Bill” Remak

Absent Committee Members: Angela Hoaglen, Belle Knight, Fanechka LaFitte, Jeanette Perez, Lee Walton, Marisol Duran-Garcia, Sandra Mandujano, Susan Wagenaar

Agenda Topic / Speaker	Minutes	Action Item(s)
1) Welcome / Purpose of Meeting <i>Speaker: Melissa Schumann</i>	Melissa Schumann, Manager of Member Services , opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, reviewing the housekeeping rules, and requesting consent to record the meeting. With no objections raised, the meeting was recorded for accessibility purposes. She reminded attendees that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) serves as a bridge between the health plan and the members by creating a forum to discuss common issues of interest and importance, ensuring that Partnership responds to the different kinds of health care needs for all members.	<i>None</i>
2) Introductions <i>Speakers: Ryan Ciulla</i>	CAC members from all Partnership sites stated their names and the counties they represent, establishing that a quorum was present. Wendy Longwell, Shasta County Representative, acknowledged the significant growth of the committee in recent years. Ryan Ciulla, Manager of Member Services, provided a special introduction for new CAC members: Itha “Bev” Banghart (Lassen), Marisol Duran-Garcia (Placer), and Nani Mingo (Shasta). He also introduced the Executive Team and the CAC Program Team.	<i>None</i>

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3) Approval of the December 2025 Meeting Minutes <i>Speaker: Melissa Schumann</i>	The December 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.	<i>Vote: Margaret Sager</i> voted to approve the minutes. <i>Brion Burkett</i> also voted to approve the minutes. <i>Result: Motion Passed, December 2025 Meeting minutes approved.</i>
4) December 2025 CAC Meeting Follow-Up <i>Speaker: Melissa Schumann</i>	Melissa Schumann, Manager of Member Services , confirmed that all follow-up items from the December 2025 CAC Meeting have been completed and are available for review in the agenda packets.	None
5) Report on Board Meeting <i>Speaker: Brion Burkett</i>	Melissa Schumann, Manager of Member Services, recognized the current Community Board Representatives, Belle Knight, Brion Burkett, and Marcelo “Nunie” Matta, and thanked them for their feedback, hard work, and dedication since their terms began. She noted that the current term will end in June 2026, with the new term beginning in August 2026. Melissa also advised that applications for the upcoming term are now being accepted and are available at each meeting location. The application window will remain open until Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Brion Burkett, Placer County Representative, offered a brief recap from the most recent board meeting on Community Reinvestment and noted that feedback and input from various groups is currently being gathered to help guide decisions on the most effective ways to reinvest funds back into the community.	None

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6) Partnership Update <i>Speaker: Sonja Bjork</i>	Sonja Bjork, Chief Executive Officer, shared Partnership HealthPlan of California updates. Sonja welcomed new CAC members, Bev Banghart (Lassen), Marisol Duran-Garcia (Placer), and Nani Mingo (Shasta), and shared Partnership's Board of Commissioners fully supported their appointment to the committee. She also highlighted the opening of the Chico Regional Office and expressed Partnership's commitment to serving as a local health plan. Sonja reported on California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) services and shared that California has submitted a new application to continue to cover these services. She explained that the application is moving through the federal review process. Additionally, she provided updates about transitional rent services and shared that this program will allow Partnership to cover six (6) months of rent for a limited group of members. Individuals with a diagnosed severe mental illness (SMI) who are also experiencing homelessness may qualify for this support. Sonja added that Partnership works with each county to establish agreements for covering at least the seventh month of rent after Partnership's six (6) month period. Members are also required to have a housing support plan in place for the time after their coverage from Partnership and their county ends. Sonja then shared the counties in Partnership's service area that are ready to move forward with this program: Glenn, Mendocino, Modoc, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties. Following her update, Sonja opened the floor for questions.	<i>None</i>

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Partnership Update Continued	Lulu Zhang, Yolo County Representative, pointed out that people with SMI, are often very vulnerable and may not be able to search for housing options on their own. She asked if this program would include support to assist applicants with that step. Sonja confirmed support will be available and also added that individuals interested in the program should also be enrolled with Enhanced Case Management (ECM). This benefit provides a case manager who can help navigate various services. Marcelo “Nunie” Matta, Yolo County Representative, shared that the counties have limited budgets and asked how many people will be able to receive services through this program. Sonja acknowledged budget constraints and explained that many counties plan to begin on a small scale. Jennifer “Jenny” Bentrim, Humboldt County Representative, asked whether the program would be available to members with dual diagnoses, such as both a severe mental illness (SMI) and a substance use disorder (SUD). Sonja explained that several details are still being determined, including how the program will apply to individuals who are already receiving services through other county programs. Public Comment: Isabell Van Merlin expressed concern for the homeless population in Butte County and asked if the county is currently involved in this program and, if not, what could be done to encourage their participation. Sonja shared that Butte County has been actively working towards implementation and is close to being ready to serve members of the community. Public Comment: A member of the public who works at a senior center serving individuals with developmental disabilities asked whether	

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Partnership Update Continued	the transitional rent program would be available to people who do not participate in behavioral health services. They also asked about Lake County's progress in launching the program and whether there is someone they could contact to encourage participation. Sonja confirmed that Lake County is also close to launching the program. She clarified that having a developmental disability alone may not meet the eligibility criteria. Members must have an SMI diagnosis and be experiencing homelessness to qualify. Adrene Ryan, Butte County Representative, shared that the Transitional Rent policy is available on the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) website and includes the definitions of SMI, homelessness, and other eligibility requirements. Sonja stated that is the current policy and that updates will continue to be made as the program advances. Ryan Ciulla, Manager of Member Services, advised that if there are additional questions regarding the Transitional Rent program to email the CAC Team at cac@PartnershipHP.org	
7) Community Reinvestment Update <i>Speaker: Jesus Hermosillo</i>	Jesus Hermosillo, Cultural Community Manager, provided a brief informational update of Community Reinvestment. Jesus also noted that no action would be taken at this time. Jesus shared that DHCS has provided four (4) different categories that Partnership is able to reinvest funds into: • Cultivating neighborhoods and built environments • Cultivating the healthcare workforce • Cultivating well-being for priority populations and improved health outcomes • Cultivating local communities	None

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Community Reinvestment Update Continued	Jesus shared some examples of potential uses for this funding, including supporting affordable housing efforts, offering training programs for healthcare providers, and developing services for mothers, children, or foster youth. He also noted that funds could be used to support education, employment, and community-wide training programs.	
8) Population Needs Assessment (PNA) <i>Speaker: Hannah O’Leary</i>	Hannah O’Leary, Manager of Population Health, presented on the work Partnership is doing to address the gaps in services and health disparities. Wendy Longwell, Shasta County Representative, asked how the Growing Together Program (GTP) is helping to increase well-child checkups, vaccinations, and dental care. Hannah explained that the program uses outcall projects where Partnership staff contact parents or legal guardians, of members, to remind and encourage them to schedule their children’s annual appointments, which may include vaccinations and dental care. Wendy then asked what the percentage increase in visits has been since these calls began. Hannah will follow up with Wendy to provide this information. Marcelo “Nunie” Matta, Yolo County Representative, asked if members who call in will be able to speak with someone about this. Hannah confirmed that if members call into Partnership, their calls can be directed to the appropriate department based on their questions. William “Bill” Remak, Sonoma County Representative, asked whether the programs that were running in 2023 and 2024 were still active and what their current status was. Hannah confirmed that the GTP is an ongoing program. Bill suggested that a report, that shows how well the program is performing, could be provided. Hannah will follow up with Bill after the meeting.	<i>Hannah O’Leary to provide Wendy Longwell and William “Bill” Remak with percentage of increase in well child appointments as a result of outcall project.</i> <i>Hannah O’Leary and the CAC Team will follow up with Raichael Stewart.</i>

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Population Needs Assessment (PNA) Continued	Raichael Stewart, Nevada County Representative , asked how Partnership is addressing the changing expectations around when parents are involved in their children's healthcare and how this is being handled within behavioral health. Hannah and the CAC Team will follow up with Raichael after the meeting to provide additional information.	
9) Community Health Assessment (CHA)/ Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) Update <i>Speaker: Hannah O'Leary</i>	Hannah O'Leary, Manager of Population Health, provided a brief CHA/CHIP update. Hannah reported that sixteen (16) goals have been approved to date, and several other counties have either drafted their goals or are working towards identifying them. Hannah shared that all 24 counties have the opportunity to apply for a grant to support local health departments with their CHA/CHIP process, and that Humboldt, Nevada, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, and Sonoma counties have already been approved. Lastly, Hannah informed the committee that they also have a role in the CHA/CHIP process and encouraged anyone with suggestions or feedback to contact the CAC Team to be connected appropriately.	None
10) Community Resources Webpage Spotlight <i>Speaker: Lauren Mahoney</i>	Lauren Mahoney, Healthy Living Coach, provided a live demo of how to access Partnership's Community Resources webpage. Lauren shared that the Community Resources page includes twenty-five (25) resource categories for each of Partnership's twenty-four (24) counties. Lauren asked the committee if there are important community resources missing or underrepresented.	None

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Community Resources Webpage Spotlight Continued	Jaime Yan Faurot, Marin County Representative, asked where Partnership identifies the resources that are posted online. Lauren explained that many of the resources are found by reviewing local county websites and online research about specific resources. William “Bill” Remak, Sonoma County Representative, suggested adding a feature that would allow users to sort resources by specific need, as well as incorporating information on current clinical trials. Sonja Bjork noted that there are other ways for patients to enter clinical trials and that physicians may not always be aware of all available options. She stated that Partnership is open to Bill’s suggestions on how this information could be incorporated. Sol McNally, Solano County Representative, recommended adding a sorting feature to the online community resources so users can filter information. For example, allowing those seeking resources for children to exclude options that are not applicable to them. Lauren noted Sol’s feedback and thanked her for the suggestion. Wendy Longwell, Shasta County Representative, asked whether the website includes an accessibility feature to improve usability. Wendy noted that blue and white color schemes can be difficult for individuals with vision impairments and suggested allowing users to adjust the site’s color settings. Lauren explained that changing color settings is not currently an available accessibility feature, and she noted the feedback for consideration. Marcelo “Nunie” Matta, Yolo County Representative, suggested a screen reading function. Lauren thanked Nunie and noted his suggestion.	

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Community Resources Webpage Spotlight Continued	Lauren then asked what would make this page more useful for members with language, literacy, or technology barriers. Public Comment: Isabell Van Merlin, asked about the functionality of this website for members that do not own or use computers. Edna Villaseñor, Senior Director of Member Services and Grievance, thanked Isabell for her question and explained that all Member Services staff are trained to use the Community Resources webpage. She shared that when members call Partnership for assistance, Member Services Representatives can search the webpage on their behalf and provide the resource information over the phone. Harry Boggs, Nevada County Representative, commented that he has used the webpage and feels it is very user-friendly. He suggested adding a chat feature to help users ask about available resources without having to search through all counties and categories. Lauren thanked Harry for this suggestion and noted it for consideration.	
11) Medi-Cal Rx Overview <i>Speaker: Stan Leung</i>	Stan Leung, Director of Pharmacy Services, provided a high-level overview of Medi-Cal Rx, the statewide pharmacy benefit, including current updates and how the program supports members in accessing prescription services. Stan asked the committee, who they usually contact when they have questions about Medi-Cal Rx and how helpful that support has been. Sol McNally, Solano County Representative, asked if there is an open forum where members can search for similar experiences, rather than having to call every time there is a question. Stan acknowledged Sol's suggestions and shared that he would bring it back to Medi-Cal Rx for consideration.	<i>The CAC Team will follow up with Bev Banghart, Lassen County Representative, for information on how to get glasses through VSP.</i> <i>Stan Leung to follow up with Raichael Stewart offline to assist with barriers through Medi-Cal Rx.</i>

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Medi-Cal Rx Overview Continued	Jennifer “Jenny” Bentrim, Humboldt County Representative, shared that members with both Medicare and Medi-Cal sometimes experience confusion about how their medication coverage is coordinated. She also noted concerns about which medications require TARs and how this may affect members who need certain medications urgently. Stan explained that Medicare Part D plans serve as the primary coverage for medications, and Medi-Cal functions as the payor of last resort. This means that if a medication is not covered under a member’s Medicare Part D plan, it may then be billed to Medi-Cal. Stan then explained that Medi-Cal’s standard review time for medications is generally 24 hours. He added that if a medication is needed sooner, assistance is available to support urgent review requests. Sol McNally, Solano County Representative, suggested implementing a way for providers to write prescriptions for medications that are covered on the list. Stan shared that Medi-Cal publishes a formulary. He shared that medications that are on this list are able to be covered without a treatment authorization request (TAR). If the medications are not on this list, providers will know how to prepare the TAR to submit to Medi-Cal Rx. Itha “Beverly” Banghart, Lassen County Representative, asked whether prescriptions for eyeglasses would be discussed. Melissa explained that this benefit is administered separately through Vision Services Plan (VSP) and could be addressed at a future meeting. Melissa added that the CAC Team can follow up with her after the meeting to provide additional information about the vision benefit through VSP.	

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Medi-Cal Rx Overview Continued	Jaime Yan Faurot, Marin County Representative, asked if Medi-Cal Rx uses language services. Stan confirmed that Medi-Cal Rx does use language services. Raichael Stewart, Nevada County Representative, shared her experience calling Medi-Cal Rx for assistance in locating a pharmacy that accepts Medi-Cal. She explained that although she was directed to certain pharmacies, they informed her that they do not accept Medi-Cal when she attempted to fill prescriptions. Stan acknowledged her concerns and offered to speak with her after the meeting to provide support. Melissa Schumann, Manager of Member Services, advised that if there are additional questions regarding Medi-Cal Rx, to email the CAC Team at cac@PartnershipHP.org	
12) Open Forum <i>Speaker: All</i>	All members of the committee and members of the public may address the committee on any non-agenda items of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee. Wendy Longwell, Shasta County Representative, shared information regarding Project Homeless Connect in Shasta County. Wendy shared this event provides free eye exams and glasses, as well as free podiatry services for members of the community. Melissa thanked Wendy for sharing information about this event and also advised that Partnership will be participating in this event. Marcelo “Nunie” Matta, Yolo County Representative, asked whether a flyer for the Partnership Transportation application could be provided so he could share it with providers in his area. Melissa thanked him for	<i>The CAC Team will distribute flyers for Wendy Longwell’s event in Shasta County to all CAC members.</i>

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	the suggestion and noted that a flyer has already been included in all agenda packets.	
13) Next Meeting	June 11, 2026 Noon – 2 p.m.	

Acronyms Used During the CAC Meeting	
CAC	Community Advisory Committee
CalAIM	California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal
SMI	Severe Mental Illness
ECM	Enhanced Case Management
SUD	Substance Use Disorder
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
DHCS	Department of Health Care Services
PNA	Population Needs Assessment
GTP	Growing Together Program
CHA	Community Health Assessment
CHIP	Community Health Improvement Plan
Rx	Prescription (used in Medi-Cal RX)
TAR	Treatment Authorization Request
VSP	Vision Services Plan