



Strategic Planning Committee

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Locations:

Partnership HealthPlan of California Offices
4665 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA (Board Room)
2525 Airpark Dr., Redding, CA
1036 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA
495 Tesconi Circle, Santa Rosa, CA
249-299 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA
2760 Esplanade Ave, Suite 130, Chico, CA
545 Garden Highway, Ste. B, Yuba City, CA 95991

1. Welcome & Introductions..... Dean Germano, Chair
2. Committee Member Comments:

At this time committee members may provide comments and announcements.
3. Public Comments:

At this time members of the public may address the Committee on any non-agenda item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Committee on a scheduled agenda item during the Committee's consideration of that item. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes.
4. Approval of Agenda (Decision).....Dean Germano, Chair
5. Review & Approval of 1/21/26 Minutes (Decision).....Dean Germano, Chair
6. Resolution to approve Brenda Shipp to the SPC..... Dean Germano, Chair
7. CEO Update.....Sonja Bjork
8. Rural Health Transformation Program.....Jill Blake and Kathryn Powers
9. Legislative Update..... Dustin Lyda

10. Board Retreat Sonja Bjork & Amy Turnipseed

11. Adjournment..... Dean Germano, Chair

Upcoming meetings: July 15, 2026

This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. Except as provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda.

Government Code §54957.5 requires that public records related to items on the open session agenda for a regular committee meeting be made available for public inspection. Records distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the committee. The committee has designated the Administrative Assistant to the Senior Director of External and Regulatory Affairs as the contact for Partnership HealthPlan of California located at 4665 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534, for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. The Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Agenda and supporting documentation is available for review from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday at all PHC regional offices (see locations above). It can also be found online at www.partnershiphp.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, PHC meeting rooms are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Jessica Cifoelli the Executive Assistant to the Chief Strategy and Government Affairs Office, at least two (2) working days before the meeting at (707) 420-7523 or by email at jcifoelli@partnershiphp.org. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable PHC to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and to materials related to it.



Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
 Wednesday, January 21, 2026
 9:30 am-11:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Members or designee: Dean Germano, Nancy Starck, Cathryn Couch, Meghan Hardin, Robin Schurig, Wendy Longwell, Tracy Mendez, Sarah Eberhardt – Rios

Guests: Bobbie Wunsch, David Nagra

Staff: Sonja Bjork, Amy Turnipseed, Naomi Gordon, Mark Bontrager, Dr. Moore, Katherine Baressi, Dustin Lyda, Jennifer Lopez, Kathryn Power, Tim Sharp, Leigha Andrews, Buck Ellingson, David Lavine, Rebecca Stark, Jessica Cifolelli

Topic	Lead		Follow-up
Updates / Introductions	Dean Germano, Chair	Dean Germano convened the meeting at 9:38 am	
Committee Member Comments	All	There were no committee comments.	
Public Comments	All	There were no public comments.	

<p>Approval of the Minutes</p>	<p>Dean Germano</p>	<p>Approval of Committee Minutes from October 15, 2025, <i>Robin Schurig approved, and Nancy Starck seconded</i></p>	
<p>Approval of resignation of T Abraham from Strategic Planning Committee and adding Meghan Hardin to the Strategic Planning Committee.</p>	<p>Dean Germano</p>	<p>The committee formally recognized the retirement and resignation of T. Abraham, who served as the hospital representative through the Hospital Council. Members expressed appreciation for his long-standing service and leadership.</p> <p>Approval of T Abraham’s resignation from the Strategic Planning Committee.</p> <p>Meghan Hardin (Hospital Council) was introduced as the new hospital representative. Ms. Hardin shared her background and regional responsibilities, noting her prior collaboration with Mr. Abraham and her commitment to continuing strong hospital engagement.</p> <p>Approval of Meghan Hardin being added to the Strategic Planning Committee.</p> <p>No abstentions. Ashlyn to send resolutions to the Board.</p>	
<p>HealthPlan Update</p>	<p>Sonja Bjork</p>	<p><u>Sonja Bjork gave the following updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of H.R. 1 and ongoing CMS rule changes. • Quality Improvement Program (QIP) contracting requirements, including new annual signature mandates. Partnership has successful completion of 100% primary care QIP amendments; partial completion for hospital and ECM providers. • State and federal oversight related to fraud, waste, and abuse initiatives. Partnership continues its robust Compliance Program where program integrity is a key component. • Continued monitoring of California budget developments. Key items the plan noticed in the Governor’s Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new benefit cuts announced. - No eligibility reductions announced. - Indications of rate pressure through “managed care efficiencies”. 	

- The State continues to emphasize manage care plans' quality performance, including:
 - Quality withhold penalties
 - Sanctions related to HEDIS and CAHPS measures
 - Member experience scores and access challenges
- Partnership did appeal its sanctions and withhold calculations, which is currently under review with DHCS.

Enrollment and Eligibility Trends:

Sonja reported a membership decline consistent with policy changes enacted under H.R. 1, including:

- Loss of members with formerly protected immigration statuses.
- Anticipated shifts from full-scope Medi-Cal to limited-scope coverage.
- Potential transition of impacted populations to fee-for-service Medi-Cal.
- Increased pressure on counties, providers, CMSP programs, and charity care systems.

<p>Governor’s Proposed Budget</p>	<p>Dustin Lyda</p>	<p><u>Dustin Lyda gave the following update:</u></p> <p>The passage of H.R. 1 in 2025 represents the most significant shift in health care policy since the Affordable Care Act. How California implements H.R. 1 will shape health care policy throughout calendar year 2026, making it essential for Partnership to prioritize the protection of critical programs and resources.</p> <p>In 2026, the Government Affairs team will focus on H.R. 1 impacts, including health care financing, rural provider workforce challenges, and the stability of rural hospitals. Additional priorities include Medi-Cal eligibility for individuals with Unsatisfactory Immigration Status (UIS), alternative coverage models, prior authorization and medical loss ratio legislation, and emerging issues related to artificial intelligence. The team will also monitor Knox-Keene–regulated legislation in preparation for the launch of Partnership Advantage in January 2027, while addressing declining Medi-Cal enrollment, rising uninsured rates, and the resulting strain on emergency departments and federally qualified health centers.</p> <p>2026 Legislative Platform –</p> <p>The committee reviewed the draft 2026 Legislative Platform, which focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.R. 1 implementation impacts • Eligibility and enrollment protections • Provider tax stability • Workforce recruitment and retention • Rural hospital sustainability • Telehealth expansion • AI, prior authorization, and licensure issues • Alternative coverage models for uninsured populations • <p>Feedback was invited, with general consensus that the platform aligned with current challenges facing rural California.</p>	
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Keep You Medi-Cal Member Engagement Workgroup	Dustin Lyda	<u>Dustin Lyda gave the following update:</u> This year, Partnership launched a major “Keep Your Medi-Cal” campaign, with coordinated internal and external efforts. Grants were awarded to community-based organizations and community health center coalitions to support member eligibility retention. Partnership continues to work with clinics, hospitals, counties, and other stakeholders to coordinate messaging on how to keep members enrolled in Medi-Cal. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- External work group meets every two weeks.- Initial focus on changes to eligibility for the UIS population.- Developed Engagement Toolkit.- Surveying clinics and other partners on current activities that Keep Your Medi-Cal messaging can be incorporated.	
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Board Retreat Planning	Amy Turnipseed	<p>The Board retreat is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of April 2026.</p> <p>The committee reviewed plans for the upcoming Board Strategic Planning Retreat in Chico, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed theme: Quality and Member Experience.• Agenda overview and potential speakers.• Discussion regarding keynote speaker options. <p>The committee expressed a preference to prioritize outreach to a big-picture keynote speaker focused on organizational effectiveness and systemic improvement, with contingency planning if unavailable.</p>	
Adjournment		<p>Chair Dean announced plans to step down from the committee chair role and invited interested members to express interest in assuming leadership.</p> <p>Dean German adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.</p>	

Now Active: Supplemental Claim Message: Provider Enrollment



February 25, 2026; Last Updated April 3, 2026

Medi-Cal

What Pharmacy Providers Need to Know

In order for pharmacy claims to be processed and paid by Medi-Cal Rx, the individual prescriber on the claim (such as doctors, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants) must be enrolled in Medi-Cal using their individual (Type 1) National Provider Identifier (NPI). This requirement also applies to pharmacists initiating prescriptions under their own scope of practice authority. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will initiate a phased approach for full enforcement of this requirement soon, and more specific information will be released once available. Refer to the alert titled [Requirement for Provider Enrollment in Medi-Cal](#) for more information.

- » **If a provider enrollment application is not approved by the time DHCS fully enforces this requirement, pharmacy claims and prior authorization (PA) requests associated with the non-enrolled prescriber will be denied.**

Pharmacy claims from non-enrolled prescribers will receive the following new supplemental message at point of sale (POS): *"ACTION REQUIRED! The Prescriber NPI associated with this claim is not enrolled as a Medi-Cal provider. Notify the Prescriber that they are not enrolled with Medi-Cal and need to apply immediately."*

What Pharmacy Providers Need to Do

When a claim is impacted and returns the new supplemental message, pharmacy providers should inform the prescriber that they are not enrolled in Medi-Cal with their individual NPI and if they are not enrolled by the time DHCS fully enforces this requirement, Medi-Cal Rx claims will deny for prescriptions written by these non-enrolled providers.

- » **Applications can take up to 90-180 days to be processed depending on the provider type. Incomplete or inaccurate application information can delay processing time.**

Contact Information

For enrollment questions, navigate to the [Provider Inquiry](#) form to submit requests for assistance to the DHCS' Provider Enrollment Division (PED).

For other questions, email Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com.



ANNUAL BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT
Hotel Katerina, 1930 Baney Ln, Chico, CA 95928

April 21st, 2026

Board Dinner

Partnership's Chico Office, 1000 Fortress Street Chico, CA 95973

- 5:30 pm** **Reception and Tours**
- 6:15 pm** **Dinner & Presentation**
Trent Smith, Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith

April 22nd, 2026

Regular Board Meeting

Hotel Katerina, Room: TBD

- 7:30 am** **Breakfast** (served until 9:00 am)
- 8:00 am** **Board Meeting/Regular Session**

Annual Board Strategic Planning Retreat

- 8:30 am** **Welcome, Introductions and Review of the Agenda**
Dean Germano, Board Chair and Bobbie Wunsch, Facilitator
- 9:00 am** **Partnership HealthPlan: Our 2026 Position**
Sonja Bjork, CEO and Jenn Lopez, CFO
- 9:30am** **BREAK**
- 9:45 am** **Partnership's Quality Plan and Current Environment**
Sonja Bjork and Dr. Bob Moore, CMO
- 10:30 am** **Speaker on Member Engagement/ Quality Strategies**
Nate Lucena, Rex Wallace Consulting
- 11:45** **Quality Panel:**
Bobbie Wunch, Facilitator
Belle Knight, Member of Partnership's Community Advisory Committee
Dr. Danielle Oryn, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Aliados Health
Dr. Joanna Hooper, Co-Medical Director, United Health Indian Services
Dr. Seth Kaufman, CMO/ VP, Chief Quality Officer, North Bay

12:30

LUNCH

1:30 pm

Roundtables: Local Strategies to Improve Quality
Bobbie Wunch

2:30 pm

Closing Remarks
Dean Gernmano and Sonja Bjork

3:00 pm

Adjourn

DRAFT