

Summary:

The Santa Cruz-Monterey-Merced Managed Medical Care Commission dba Central Coast Alliance for Health (“the Alliance”) is a health plan developed to improve access to health care for lower income residents in the counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Merced who often lacked a primary care “medical home” and so relied on emergency rooms for basic services. The Alliance has pursued this mission by linking members to primary care physicians and clinics that deliver timely services and preventive care and arrange referrals to specialty care.

On September 14, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance adding Chapter 2.46 to the Monterey County Code to establish the Santa Cruz-Monterey-Merced-San Benito-Mariposa Managed Medical Care Commission and repealing Chapter 2.45 of the Monterey County Code to terminate the Santa Cruz-Monterey-Merced Managed Medical Care Commission. Under the Ordinance, the Alliance seeks to add additional County members to the Alliance: San Benito County and Mariposa County, and to expand the number of voting commission members. Currently, the Alliance has 21 voting commission members, seven (7) from each of the three (3) counties. The new Alliance will have 25 voting commission members. The number of commission members from a given County shall be based upon the number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries within each County. Under this new formula, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors shall appoint five (5) commissioners to the Alliance.

The new Alliance shall be established effective on the date that all five (5) counties have in effect substantially similar ordinances creating the Alliance and a quorum of commission members have met to conduct its initial public meeting. The State Department of Health Care Services has requested that the five (5) counties submit their approved ordinances by October 1, 2021.

The new 5-county health plan is expected to convene in October 2023, following DHCS confirmation of readiness approval in September 2023

Per county ordinance, when the new 5-county Alliance Board is convened, the existing 3-county Alliance Board will be terminated. This means that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors must appoint 5 members for the newly expanded Commission. Monterey County posted the five vacancies for the new 5-county Alliance Board and all 7 current Board members have expressed interest in remaining on the Board.

The following individuals are currently representing the County of Monterey on the Alliance Board and are recommended for appointment to fill the membership categories listed below:

- The Director of the County Health Department (or Health Services Agency) of their designee – Elsa Jimenez
- One member of the Board of Supervisors – Wendy Root Askew
- One person representing health care providers – Dr Max Cuevas
- One person from the public representing the population of beneficiaries to be served by the Commission - Janna Espinoza
- One at large representative of either the public representing the population of beneficiaries to be served by the Commission or one person representing health care providers – Dr Allen Radner

Julie Edgcomb and Dr Chad Harris are currently serving on the 7 member Alliance Board and have indicated their interest in continuing to serve on the Board.