

## **COVERING KIDS AND FAMILIES (CKF) COALITION FACT SHEET**

### **BACKGROUND**

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California Covering Kids & Families (CKF) is a statewide coalition established in 1999 and convened by Community Health Councils (CHC) to ensure broad community input into the design, implementation and operation of the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Today, CKF is a diverse network of more than 50 active organizations across 25 counties. With membership from under-represented communities, local and state agencies, CBOs, children and healthcare advocacy organizations, the coalition draws upon practice-based evidence to inform the development and implementation of state and county level policies and systems for public healthcare coverage.

CKF focuses on coordinating stakeholders' information sharing, facilitating interagency collaboration, providing a mechanism for feedback, and assessing consumer experiences with systems and policies. CKF coalition provides both a forum and a process by which the State Department of Health Care Services, Covered California, The Department of Managed Health Care, state level advocates and members of the legislature test and secure feedback on potential regulations, administrative procedures and communication to stakeholders and enrollees. Coalition activities have included hosting statewide and local forums that provide opportunities for dialogue and sharing; engaging state agencies in dialogue about challenges and solutions; informing coalition participants on lessons from other states; identifying problems; and developing recommendations collaboratively. CKF is regarded as an effective and credible vehicle for feedback, research and analysis.

The Coalition has developed strong direct working relationships with state, federal and local regulatory and administrative agencies to achieve significant policy and systems changes to simplify and increase enrollment, retention and utilization of publicly-subsidized programs. From its inception, the CKF coalition has provided insight into the development and subsequent improvements to state and local healthcare programs and has been seen as a vital resource for information dissemination and community participation in statewide health policy development initiatives. Examples of work include, but are not limited to:

- The development of the joint Medi-Cal and Healthy Families application; and the CHDP gateway;
- Participating in successful efforts to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program at the federal level and to reverse the Healthy Families Program enrollment waitlist at the state level;
- Developing policy reports and comment letters to provide recommendations to state/federal decision makers, advocates and consumers alike, on state/federal regulations and policy decisions for the implementation of the ACA. (e.g., the Marketplace, Medicaid Regulations, California's Marketing and Outreach Plan, Navigator Program); and,
- Providing training and educational materials to Enrollers which in turn allows them to better support consumers to accessing, utilizing and retaining healthcare coverage.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

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All children and families residing in California, regardless of economic or immigration status, have affordable, quality healthcare coverage and timely and appropriate access to the healthcare system.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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To build a network of diverse leadership throughout California to advance the quality and accessibility of healthcare for children and families through the exchange of information and experiences, and through policy development and implementation.

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### LONG-TERM POLICY GOALS

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Coalition activities and policy priorities fall under the following policy goals:

<b>Policy Goal 1: Sustainability</b>	Support the creation of a stable fiscal foundation for public programs that promote positive health outcomes.
<b>Policy Goal 2: Simplification and Coordination</b>	Simplify and coordinate enrollment and retention policies and procedures among public healthcare programs.
<b>Policy Goal 3: Outreach, Enrollment, Utilization, and Retention (OEUR)</b>	Build partnerships in the community to coordinate the identification, enrollment and retention of all eligible children and families in comprehensive and affordable health insurance programs. This includes referrals and follow-up to ensure maintenance of coverage and the utilization of healthcare services once enrolled.
<b>Policy Goal 4: Quality</b>	Promote quality standards to improve healthcare and ensure health equity.
<b>Policy Goal 5: Access</b>	Strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and provider networks to ensure equitable access to care.
<b>Policy Goal 6: Expansion and Affordability</b>	Guarantee all children and families (especially lower income and under-served) have access to affordable, accessible and comprehensive healthcare coverage options.

### STRUCTURE & MEETINGS

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The Coalition currently operates as a non-dues paying member organization with membership guidelines and expectations. The structure is intended to support CHC's social change model to bring together individuals and organizations to create community and systems change by:

- Strengthening the community network
- Capacity building
- Resource development
- Advocacy and community engagement
- Leadership development
- Diffusion of knowledge
- Coalition building.

The Coalition meetings are scheduled quarterly, normally in the third month of the quarter on the second Tuesday of the month. However, this schedule may change so please contact CHC staff for the exact days.

### FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COALITION CONTACT:

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