



**COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT HEALTH EQUITY COMMITTEE (EQIHEC)**

**DATE OF MEETING: March 18, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER: 7:18 AM BY TRACO MATTHEWS, CHAIR**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Jennifer Ansolabehere, KC Public Health Satya Arya, MD - ENT. Danielle Colayco, PharmD – Komoto Martha Tasinga, KHS Chief Medical Officer	Allen Kennedy – Quality Team DME Chan Park, MD – Vanguard Family Medicine Philipp Melendez, MD – OB/GYN	Rukiyah Polk - CAC Chair Jasmine Ochoa – Health Equity Manager of Public Health Traco Matthews – KHS Chief Health Equity Officer (Non-Voting)
<b>Members Virtual Remote:</b>			
<b>Members Excused=E Absent=A</b>	Debra Cox – Omni Family Health (A) Todd Jeffries – Bakersfield Community Healthcare (A)		
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Michelle Curioso - Director of Pop Health Management Pawan Gill - Health Equity Manager Sukhpreet Sidhu, MD - Pop Health Medical Director Anastasia Lester - Sr. Health Equity Analyst John Miller - Quality Improvement Medical Doctor Ann StoryGarza - Assistant General Counsel Amy Sanders - Member Services Manger	Magdee Hugais - Director of Quality Improvement Kailey Collier - Director of Quality Performance Maninder Khalsa - Medical Director Christine Pence - Senior Director of Health Services Nate Scott - Member Services Director Steven Kinnison - NCQA Manager Alma Garcia – NCQA Accreditation Specialist	Vanessa Nevarez - Health Equity Coordinator Greg Panero - Provider Network Analytics Abdolreza Saadabadi, MD - BH Medical Director Isabel Silva - Senior Director of Wellness & Prevention Melinda Santiago - Director of Behavioral Health Steve Pocasangre - NCQA Accreditation Specialist James Winfrey - Deputy Director of Provider Network

Agenda Item	Discussion/Conclusion	Recommendations/Action	Date Resolved
Quorum	10 of 12 committee members present; Debra Cox and Todd Jeffries were absent.	Committee quorum requirements met.	N/A
Call to Order	Traco Matthews, Chair, called meeting to order at 7:18 am.	N/A	N/A
Public Presentation	Julie Skelton, RN, addressed the EQIHEC in public comment with serious concerns regarding treatment denials for cancer patients, particularly young Hispanic women and men. She cited repeated denials by KHS based on current NCG Health Ambulatory Criteria, despite patients meeting national guidelines, including cases involving personal or family history of breast cancer. Ms. Skelton emphasized that national guidelines allow for screenings starting at age 50 – or earlier if clinical requirements are met – and that these guidelines, which	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Tasinga will meet with the cancer center offline to discuss guidelines and criteria.</li> </ul>	3/18/25

	certified providers are obligated to follow, should be added to KHS's criteria. She shared that these denials have led to delayed surgeries or the need for second surgeries. Dr. Tasinga acknowledged the concern and stated that many denials occur due to incomplete clinical information provided during the request process. She clarified that while NCG guidelines are nationally recognized, the guidelines reference by Ms. Skelton are not recognized by NCQA, which informs KHS policy. Dr. Tasinga committed to discussing the matter further offline with the cancer center.		
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Agenda Item	Discussion/Conclusion	Recommendations/Action	Date Resolved
Committee Announcements	Traco Matthews gave the opportunity for member updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were no committee announcements.</li> </ul>		
Committee Minutes	<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>  CA-3) The Committee's Chairperson, Traco Matthews, presented the EQIHEC Minutes for approval.	<b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philipp M. first, Satya A. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> </ul>	3/18/25
Old Business	There was no old business to present.	N/A	N/A
New Business	<b><u>Consent Agenda Items</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA-4) Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) Minutes from January 15, 2025.</li> <li>CA-5) Health Equity Transformation Steering Committee (HETSC) Minutes from February 11, 2025.</li> <li>CA-6) Network Advisory Committee (NAC) Minutes from February 27, 2025.</li> <li>CA-7) Pharmacy Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Minutes from November 25, 2025.</li> <li>CA-8) Physician Advisory Committee (PAC) October 2, 2024, Redacted Summary of Proceedings.</li> <li>CA-9) Physician Advisory Committee (PAC) November 6, 2024, Redacted Summary of Proceedings.</li> <li>CA-10) Physician Advisory Committee (PAC) December 4, 2024, Redacted Summary of Proceedings.</li> <li>CA-11) Population Health Management Committee</li> </ul>	<b>Action:</b>	

	<p>(PHMC) Minutes from December 4, 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA-12) Utilization Management Committee (UMC) Minutes from December 11, 2024.</li> <li>CA-13) Quality Improvement Workgroup (QIW) Minutes from December 12, 2024.</li> <li>CA-14) Quality Improvement Workgroup (QIW) Minutes from March 7, 2025.</li> <li>CA-15) Wellness &amp; Prevention (W&amp;P) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Q3 2024 W&amp;P Report</li> <li>-Q3 2024 C&amp;L Report</li> <li>-Q4 2024 W&amp;P Report</li> <li>-Q4 2024C&amp;L Report</li> </ul> </li> <li>A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items was requested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satya A. first, Chan P. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> </ul>	3/18/25
	<p><b><u>16) Quality Improvement Workgroup (QIW)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magdee H. presented an overview of the Quality Improvement Trilogy documents which consists of the 2024 Quality Program Evaluation, the 2025 Quality Improvement Health Equity Program Description, and the 2025 Quality Improvement Work Plan. These documents provide a comprehensive assessment of program performance, outline strategic priorities for the coming year, and establish measurable goals to enhance clinical care, service quality, and member experience.</li> <li>Magdee H. presented the 2024 Quality Performance Evaluation. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>Magdee H. presented the 2025 Quality/Health Equity Program Description. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>Magdee H. presented the 2025 Quality Improvement Work Plan. A motion to approve was requested.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>17) Quality Performance (QP)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kailey C. presented the Quality Performance Q1 2025 report which provides a summary of the quarterly</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informational only.</li> <li>Allen K. first, Satya A. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>Satya A. first, Allen K second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>Satya A. first, Chan P. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>Chan P. first, Satya A. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> </ul>	<p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p>

	<p>activities and outcomes for the department. A motion to approve was requested.</p> <p><b><u>18) Health Equity Transformation Steering Committee (HETSC)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pawan G. presented the 2025 Health Equity Workplan. She explained that the Health Equity Program Description and the Health Equity Program Workplan were combined in 2025 to form the QIHE Program Description as mentioned by Magdee H. at the beginning of the EQIHEC meeting. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>• Pawan G. presented the updated JEDI Charter as it is an integral part of the Health Equity Office strategy. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>• Pawan G. provided a Health Equity Division update to the committee which covered Health Equity trainings in 2025, Equity and Practice Transformation (EPT) and Doula updates.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>19) Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melinda S. presented the Behavioral Health Department National Committee for Quality Assurance Continuity and Coordination Between Medical and Behavioral Health Care report. Melinda S. also shared that a Tribal Liaison, the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP), was invited to be on the BHAC to enhance health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Melinda S. asked the committee if they had any recommendations on how the Behavioral Health Department can meet their goal of 10% penetration rate (right now it is at 1%). Traco M. asked how our collaboration with Kern Behavioral Health Recovery Systems is. Melinda S. responded that she would share the collaboration data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philipp M. first, Allen K. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>• Jasmine O. first, Satya A. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>• Informational only.</li> <li>• Jennifer A. first, Allen K. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> </ul>	<p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p>
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	<p>at the third quarter EQIHEC meeting. A motion to approve the BHAC Q1 2025 report was requested.</p> <p><b><u>20) Member Services</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy S. presented the Q4 2024 Operational Board Report that covers grievance trends. She stated that Q4 is historically slow and therefore dropped by 10%. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>• Amy S. presented the Q4 2024 Grievance Summary Report that provides the types of grievances that are received. Dr. Tasinga commented on the quality-of-care grievances stating that every call is a quality of care. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>• Amy S. presented the Member Services Email Audit Summary Report which states that emails must achieve a monthly average score of 90% or higher and 100% of email must have a response within 1 business day; both conditions were met. A motion to approve was requested.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>21) Utilization Management (UM)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Khalsa presented the Q4 2024 UM report which contains a synopsis of both quantitative and qualitative analysis that reflect the performance of the UM department in Q4 2024. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>• Christine P. presented the 2024 UM Workplan Evaluation which provides an evaluation of the progress towards the goals and workplan from 2024. A motion to approve was requested.</li> <li>• Christine P. presented the 2025 UM Workplan that covers the success of the goals and planned interventions set by the UM department. A motion to approve was requested.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philipp M. first, Satya A. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>• Allen K. first, Satya A. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>• Satya A. first, Jasmine O. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>• Satya A. left the meeting at 8:27am.</li> <li>• Philipp M. first, Allen K. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>• Philipp M. first, Chan P. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>• Rukiyah P. first, Allen K. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> </ul>	<p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p> <p>3/18/25</p>
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	<p><b><u>24) Wellness &amp; Prevention (W&amp;P)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isabel S. presented the 2024 Annual Wellness Report that summarizes department goals, objectives, and activities performed in 2024. Daniella C. asked what the departments success factors were. Isabel S. responded that partnering directly with parks and rec was the best success. Daniella C. asked how she can refer patients to the W&amp;P activated and programs. Isabel S. responded that class locations such as the City of Delano are great about posting information. Additionally, there are flyers on the KHS website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allen K. first, Danielle C. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> <li>Chan P. left the meeting at 9:20am</li> </ul>	3/18/25
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Agenda Item	Discussion/Conclusion	Recommendations/Action	Date Resolved
Open Forum	Traco M. gave an update on the DHCS Transforming Maternal Health Model Press Conference that took place at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital on February 5, 2025. The day consisted of a tour of the birthing center at Bakersfield Memorial, a tour of the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project facility, a tour of Kern Medical, and a discussion led by KHS with Kern County Public Health. The DHCS and CA Surgeon General were in attendance and so impressed by Kern County that they have demanded that all areas follow what we do.	Informational only.	N/A
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 7:15am.	Informational only.	N/A
Adjournment	<p>The Committee adjourned at 9:23am.</p> <p><b><i>Respectfully Submitted:</i></b>  <b><i>Vanessa Nevarez, Health Equity Project Coordinator</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Danielle C. first, Jennifer A. second. All aye's. Motion carried.</li> </ul>	N/A

*For Signature Only – EQIHEC Minutes 3/25/25*

The foregoing minutes were APPROVED AS PRESENTED on:

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Date

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Name

The foregoing minutes were APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION on:

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Date

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Name