

**Ventura County Medi-Cal Managed Care Commission (VCMMCC)  
dba Gold Coast Health Plan**

**Credentials / Peer Review Committee Meeting**

**Special Meeting**

**Thursday, October 5, 2023 4:00 p.m.**

**The meeting is being held virtually pursuant to AB 361.**

**Members of the public can participate using the Conference Call Number below.**

**Conference Call Number: 1-805-324-7279**

**Conference ID Number: 276 490 275#**

**Due to the declared state of emergency wherein social distancing measures have been imposed or recommended, this meeting is being held pursuant to AB 361.**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public has the opportunity to address the Credentials / Peer Review Committee (CPRC) on the agenda.

Persons wishing to address the CPRC are limited to three (3) minutes unless the Chair of the Committee extends time for good cause shown. Comments regarding items not on the agenda must be within the subject jurisdiction of the Committee.

Members of the public may call in, using the numbers above, or can submit public comments to the Committee via email by sending an email to [ask@goldchp.org](mailto:ask@goldchp.org). If members of the public want to speak on a particular agenda item, please identify the agenda item number. Public comments submitted by email should be under 300 words.

## **CONSENT**

### **1. Findings to Continue to Hold Remote Teleconference / Virtual Credentials / Peer Review Committee Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.**

Staff: Felix L. Nuñez, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Committee should make the findings and determine that teleconferencing under AB 361 will promote and protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Date and location of the next meeting to be determined at the October 5, 2023 meeting.

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Administrative Reports relating to this agenda are available at 711 East Daily Drive, Suite #106, Camarillo, California, during normal business hours and on <http://goldcoasthealthplan.org>. Materials related to an agenda item submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public review during normal business hours at the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact (805) 437-5512. Notification for accommodation must be made by the Monday prior to the meeting by 1:00 p.m. to enable the Clerk of the Commission to make reasonable arrangements for accessibility to this meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1**

**TO:** Credentials / Peer Review Committee

**FROM:** Felix L. Nuñez, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer

**DATE:** October 5, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Findings to Continue to Hold Remote Teleconference/Virtual Credentials / Peer Review Committee Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

### **SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION:**

At their March 2, 2023, meeting, the Credentials / Peer Review Committee (“Committee”) adopted findings to continue to meet remotely pursuant to Assembly Bill 361. To continue this practice, it is required, that the Committee determine that they have considered the facts of the COVID-19 state of emergency in deciding to continue to have teleconference meetings under AB 361 and that state officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection with COVID-19 and that as a result of these considerations and findings, meeting in person or pursuant to traditional teleconferencing rules would impose risks to the health or safety of attendees and that teleconference meetings under AB 361 should continue.

### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Traditionally, the Brown Act allows for teleconference or virtual meetings, provided that the physical locations of the legislative body’s members joining by teleconference are posted on the agenda, that those locations are open to the public and that a quorum of the members is located within its jurisdiction. AB 361 provides an exception to these procedures in order to allow for fully virtual meetings during and after proclaimed emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that the state and county state of emergency declarations are over, the Committee may continue to meet remotely pursuant to AB 361 if it makes both of the following findings:

- The Committee has reconsidered the circumstances of the prior states of emergencies; and
- State officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

COVID-19 continues to present a threat to the health and safety of Committee members, and its personnel. Although vaccines are now widely available, many people in the State and County are still not fully vaccinated and remain susceptible to infection and the vaccinations have not proven successful in stemming the spread of COVID-19. In recent months both the rate of persons testing positive (now at many months high of 13.7%) and Covid-19 hospitalizations continue, and an average of 11 people die from Covid-19 each day, up from 8 people last month. Additionally, several Committee members attend meetings in medical facilities or offices and allowing members of the public to attend meetings at these posted locations when they may not be vaccinated would pose a threat to the health or safety of attendees. Further, on February 3, 2023, a new set of non-emergency COVID-19 prevention regulations were issued by Cal/OSHA which carry over some of the same requirements imposed by earlier regulations, including social distancing measures. These new measures will continue to be imposed, unless changed, until February 3, 2025. Thus, facts supporting the continued findings exist.

As such, it is recommended that the Committee should make the findings and determine that teleconferencing under AB 361 will promote and protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

#### **CONSEQUENCES OF NOT FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Committee will have to follow the Brown Act provisions that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **FOLLOW UP ACTION:**

That the Committee make the findings under AB361 at their November 2, 2023 meeting.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

None.