

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

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Special Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Gold Coast Health Plan, 711 East Daily Drive, Community Room  
Camarillo, CA 93010**

**Meeting held pursuant to AB 361**

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

**Conference ID Number: 394 148 894#**

**Para interpretación al español, por favor llame al: 1-805-322-1542 clave: 1234**

**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**

**INTERPRETER ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public has the opportunity to address the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Persons wishing to address the Committee should complete and submit a Speaker Card.

Persons wishing to address the CAC 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.

## **Welcoming Remarks**

Marlen Torres, Executive Director of Strategy & External Affairs

## **CONSENT**

### **1. Findings to Continue to Hold Remote Teleconference/Virtual Community Advisory Committee Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.**

Staff: Marlen Torres, Executive Director of Strategy and External Affairs

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Committee adopt the findings to continue to meet remotely.

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**CAC Feedback / Roundtable Discussion**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Date and location of the next meeting to be determined at the September 20, 2023, Special CAC meeting.

**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:** Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

**FROM:** Marlen Torres, Executive Director, Strategy and External Affairs

**DATE:** August 23, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Findings to Hold Remote Teleconference/Virtual Community Advisory Committee Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

### **SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION:**

In order for the Community Advisory Committee to hold virtual meetings where they are required to allow members of public to attend at locations they are teleconferencing from, findings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 are required. The findings are that the Committee determine that they have considered the facts of the COVID-19 state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor still exists and that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection with COVID-19, and that as result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present risks to the health or safety of attendees. These findings must be made every thirty (30) days.

### **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. On September 10, 2021, the Legislature adopted AB 361, which allows public agencies to hold fully virtual meetings under certain circumstances without the posting of the agenda from each location a legislative body member is attending and requiring that members of the public be able to attend at each such location. Governor Newsom signed the bill into law on September 16, 2021. Because it contained an urgency provision, it took immediate effect.

AB 361 provides an exception to these procedures in order to allow for fully virtual meetings during proclaimed emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March of 2020 and the issuance of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended portions of the Brown Act relating to teleconferencing, the Commission has had virtual meetings without having to post the location of the legislative body members

attending virtually. Most public agencies have been holding public meetings using virtual platforms since this time

### *Specific Findings Required under AB 361*

Under AB 361, the Committee, can hold virtual meetings without providing notice of the Committee's teleconference location if the Committee makes the determination that there is a Governor-proclaimed state of emergency which the Committee will consider in their determination, and one of two secondary criteria listed below exists:

1. State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection with COVID-19; or
2. The Committee determines that requiring a meeting in person would present an imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees.

COVID-19 continues to present an imminent 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. The disease can still spread rapidly through person-to-person contact and those in close proximity. Further, more contagious variants of the disease are now present in the State and County. Additionally, several Committee members may 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. Additionally, on February 2, 2023, a new set of non-emergency COVID-19 prevention regulations were issued by Cal/OHSA 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 2, 2025.

### *Re-Authorization is Required Within 30 Days*

Consistent with the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e), the findings must be made every 30 days "after teleconferencing for the first time" under AB 361. Thus, if the Committee desires to continue to meet remotely without having to post the location of each teleconference location, the Committee must again find that the COVID-19 emergency still exists and that one of the two following findings can be made: that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection with COVID-19, or, that a result of the COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

It is recommended that the Committee make these findings.

**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 AB 361 at the September 20, 2023, special Community Advisory Committee meeting.

**ATTACHMENT:**

None.