

Dr. Michael Weiss

Statement of Interest for the MCHAP Chair Position

To say that we are at an inflection point for the Medi-Cal program would be an understatement. Emerging from the pandemic with a massive re-determination effort about to begin, framed by the CalAIM initiative, and further underscored by the mental health crisis we face, we are, collectively, faced with an opportunity to change the lives of millions of people.

Having served on the MCHAP this past year, I have learned a great deal about the competing priorities faced by our leadership. What often appears, on the surface, to be a simple problem, frequently reveals itself as a multi-layered conundrum with several moving parts. The role of the MCHAP, as I see it, is to help the DHCS leaders connect with the frontline stakeholders to assure that all of the moving parts are “visible”. This allows for the most informed decisions to be made for our constituents.

I see the role of the MCHAP as three inter-related workstreams: Advocacy, Education, and Information. We are all part of the Panel because of our respective passion for high quality, equitable care for children. Our role is to collaboratively advocate for this outcome. The role of the MCHAP Chair is to foster this open dialogue while encouraging conversations that consider all stakeholders and do not delve too deeply into any special interests. The education component is bi-directional. We are there to learn from the DHCS leaders, but we are also tasked with teaching the staff and each other. Collectively, we possess tremendous experience and knowledge that can be channeled into productive discussions that can further our mission. Lastly, we are tasked with the responsibility to inform our respective stakeholder groups and assure that they are made aware of important issues and offered the opportunity to provide a broader range of input at the Panel level.

I would be honored to take on the role of Chair of the MCHAP. The prospect of continuing to learn from the team and to interact with the leaders who are driving such positive change is truly exciting. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Best,

Dr. Michael Weiss
V.P. Population Health
Children’s Health of Orange County