Statement of interest and vision for the MCHAP Chair position.

It would absolutely be my honor to continue to serve as MCHAP Chair for 2022.

2022 would be my third term, so I would not be eligible to serve as Chair after that. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve in 2022. Despite the obvious challenges, I'm very proud of the work that the panel has done over the past year, and I'd like to build on our successes.

These are difficult and rapidly changing times, that are full of opportunities for us to have even more impact on the health of children in California.

As I have stated before, my vision for the MCHAP is simple: Your time at MCHAP should be the most engaging, impactful and fulfilling time you spend as an advocate. Period. Otherwise we are not taking full advantage of what this incredible group has to offer. You are the experts, whether that is professional expertise, personal expertise, or both. Your time and knowledge are so valuable. Both you and the children served by Medi-Cal deserve your best.

So that's my vision. I believe it supports your best interest, and the interest of the families we serve.

The mission then, is how we get there. We will continue to try to find the right balance between the breadth and the depth of our work, particularly when we have such limited time together, while also having a near limitless set of areas we could try to address.

I continue to want every panel member's input on how to accomplish this to the best of everyone's satisfaction (acknowledging each panel member's needs can be different). I really want each member to know that their voice has been heard.

Additionally, I want to be sure the door is open if there are specific issues that are important to you and that you would like the panel to consider taking action on.

As before, I also want to also be sure what we are working on will actually be impactful. I believe the key to this is seeking continued input from DHCS on how we can best align our goals and their need for our input. Otherwise we risk wasting our precious time on producing something that isn't completely helpful or needed.

So this is the direction I believe we should go in. Again, you are the experts, so I look forward to your input on how we will indeed make your time on the MCHAP truly fulfilling and enjoyable!

Ken Hempstead, M.D., F.A.A.P.

General Pediatrician
Communication Consultant Lead
Regional Vaccine Communication Lead
Delegate, California Medical Association
Mindfulness/Wellness Instructor

Department of Pediatrics, Roseville, CA
The Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser Permanente)