# Whole Child Model Clinical Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.







#### Held Via Teleconference

1. Members of the public wishing to join the meeting may do so as follows: **Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.** 

#### Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 245 855 344 784 74

Passcode: 9PX3ev2F

#### Dial in by phone

+1 872-242-9041,,702310334# United States, Chicago

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 702 310 334#

- 2. Members of the public wishing to provide public comment on items not listed on the agenda that are within jurisdiction of the Committee or to address an item that is listed on the agenda may do so in one of the following ways.
  - a. Email comments by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 29, 2025 to the Clerk of the Advisory Committee at <a href="mailto:jvanvoerkens@thealliance.health">jvanvoerkens@thealliance.health</a>
    - i. Indicate in the subject line "Public Comment." Include your name, organization, agenda item number, and title of the item in the body of the e-mail along with your comments.
    - ii. Comments will be read during the meeting and are limited to five minutes.
  - b. Public comment during the meeting when that item is announced.
    - i. State your name and organization prior to providing comment.
    - ii. Comments are limited to five minutes.
- 3. Mute your phone during presentations to eliminate background noise.
  - a. State your name prior to speaking during comment periods.
  - b. Limit background noise when unmuted (i.e., paper shuffling, cell phone calls, etc.)

1. Call to Order by Chairperson Wang. 12:00 p.m.

- A. Roll call.
- B. Supplements and deletions to the agenda.

#### 2. Oral Communications. 12:05 p.m.

- A. Members of the public may address the Committee on items not listed on today's agenda that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee.
   Presentations must not exceed five minutes in length, and any individual may speak only once during Oral Communications.
- B. If any member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any item that is listed on today's agenda, they may do so when that item is called. Speakers are limited to five minutes per item.

#### Consent Agenda Items: 12:10 p.m.

- 3. Approve Whole Child Model Clinical Advisory Committee (WCMCAC) Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2025.
  - A. Reference materials: Minutes as above.
  - B. Grievance Update S. Sanders
  - C. WCMCAC Charter

#### Regular Agenda Items: 12:15 p.m.

4. New Business

A. Interpreting Services D. Herrera

**Old Business** 

A. Behavioral Health Insourcing Update R. McMullen

B. Transportation Update D. Urbelis, Call the Car

C. WCMFAC Update J. Espinoza

D. WCM Referral Volumes A. McEowen, RN

5. Open Discussion: 12:40 p.m.

A. Committee to have roundtable discussion

- 6. Future Topics
- 7. Adjourn: 12:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Whole Child Model Clinical Advisory Committee, after this December 16, 2025, meeting:

 Thursday, February 19, 2026, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Locations: Teleconference via MS Teams

Members of the public interested in attending should call the Alliance at (831) 430-2621 to verify meeting dates prior to the meetings.

The complete agenda packet is available for review on the Alliance website at: <a href="https://www.ccah-alliance.org">www.ccah-alliance.org</a> bottom of page under Community – Meetings and Events.

# Whole Child Model Clinical Advisory Committee







#### **Meeting Minutes**

#### Thursday, September 30, 2025

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### **Teleconference Meeting**

#### **Committee Members' Present:**

Aditi Mhaskar, MD

Cal Gordon, MD

Provider Representative

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Camille Guzel. MD
Ignacio Santana
Provider Representative

#### **Staff Present:**

Dianna Myers, MD

Chair, Interim CHEO, Medical Director
Complex Case Management Supervisor
Christy Pool

Jana Brodock,

Jenna Stromsoe, RN

Complex Case Management Supervisor
Lisa Moody, RN

Senior Complex Case Manager
Administrative Specialist

Jacqueline Van Voerkens Clerk of the Committee

#### **Other Representatives Present:**

Becky Shaw CEO Merced Faculty Associates

Janna Espinoza FAC Representative

Linda Smith RN Director of Nursing, Merced Co. Public Health

#### 1. Call to Order by Chairperson Dr. Dianna Myers.

Chairperson Myers called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Roll call was taken.

#### 2. Oral Communications.

Chairperson Myers opened the floor for members of the public to address the Committee on items not listed on the agenda.

No members of the public addressed the Committee.

#### 3. Consent Agenda Items.

- A. <u>Approval of WCMCAC Minutes</u>
  Minutes from July 10, 2025, meeting were reviewed.
- B. <u>Grievance Update</u> Grievance data and update were provided to the Committee.
- C. 2026 Schedule

M/S/A Consent agenda items approved.

#### 4. Regular Business Items.

A. ABA/BHT

Jana Brodock, Alliance Lead Clinical Analyst BCBA, provided a comprehensive presentation on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), covering its clinical indications, referral pathways, eligibility criteria, and the process for accessing services, with an active discussion and questions regarding diagnosis requirements and communication with referring providers. Ms. Brodock explained that ABA is a scientific approach to understanding and changing behavior, focusing on observable and measurable behaviors, and is typically delivered in outpatient settings such as homes, clinics, schools, and community locations, involving multidisciplinary teams. It was clarified that while ABA is most commonly used for autism spectrum disorder (ASD), it is also effective for other diagnoses such as Down syndrome, Tourette's syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), and can be started at any age up to 21 years old at the Alliance. Referrals for ABA do not need to be submitted directly to the Alliance but should come from a licensed referring provider to the servicing ABA provider, and that a formal diagnosis is not required to initiate ABA services; the Alliance assists families in obtaining a diagnosis by linking the member to a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation (CDE) provider if needed while starting ABA services concurrently. Prior authorization is required for ongoing ABA services after the initial assessment. Ms. Brodock provided detailed instructions for submitting referrals via the online form or provider portal, including handling cases without an established diagnosis and the importance of including caregiver information.

Dr. Lena Malik asked if a formal diagnosis is required before referring to ABA, noting that third-party providers often require one. She questioned if the Alliance helps formalize the diagnosis if not already present. Ms. Brodock responded that the Alliance could start ABA services with a referral and will help the members get a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation if needed, running both processes in parallel.

Dr. Aditi Mhaskar asked if a patient with maladaptive behaviors but found to have a learning disability (not autism) after assessment, could continue ABA. Ms. Brodock confirmed that ABA can be provided for other diagnoses if the provider recommends it, and goals can be tailored to the member's needs, such as attending or on-task behavior, just not academics.

Dr. Dianna Myers asked about the process for getting information back to the referring provider after ABA evaluation, noting challenges in receiving updates. Ms. Brodock acknowledged the issue, explained current practices, and agreed to explore ways to streamline communication and ensure providers receive necessary updates.

#### 5. Old Business Items.

#### A. Transportation Update

Call the Car representative was not present to provide the transportation update. Update will be provided at next meeting.

#### B. WCM Family Advisory Committee Update

Janna Espinoza provided updates from the Family Advisory Committee, highlighting new member recruitment efforts, the addition of a family from Merced, ongoing work to expand the resource guide for new counties, and recent discussions with state representatives on policy and system improvements. Ms. Espinoza reported successful recruitment of a new family from Merced, with plans for them to become voting members pending board approval and encouraged committee members to refer interested families to the advisory group. The committee is working to enhance the resource guide, particularly for San Benito and Mariposa counties, and solicited input from members to identify additional resources for these areas. Ms. Espinoza shared that a new California Children's Services (CCS) advisory group representative has been appointed to the committee, and summarized a recent presentation created by Michelle Bass from DHCS, which addressed state and federal budget impacts and efforts to automate disability verification for Medi-Cal. Ms. Espinoza shared a new family from Merced is in the process board approval to become voting members, increasing representation from Merced.

Recruiting families from Merced has been a longstanding challenge; Ms. Espinoza encouraged WCMCAC members to refer interested families to the advisory group, even for occasional participation. The WCMFAC is working to expand its resource guide, especially for San Benito and Mariposa counties, and welcomes suggestions for additional resources.

To receive a WCMFAC resource guide, committee membership referrals, or committee business please contact Kayla Zoliniak, Administrative Specialist at: kzoliniak@thealliance.health

#### C. WCM CCS Referral Volumes

Ashley McEowen, supervisor of the pediatric case management team, presented updated data on Alliance referral volumes, approval and denial rates by county, and membership changes, with discussion on the impact of pending referrals and the aging out of CCS members. Ms. McEowen reported that referral volumes have increased by about 40 since the last packet, with a significant number of referrals pending determination or documentation and provided a county-by-county breakdown. Quarter two approval rates averaged 74.7%, while quarter three rates appeared lower due to pending referrals; denial rates decreased from 20.9% to 13.2%, with expectations that approval rates will rise after retrospective review. Ms. McEowen noted that 86 young adults Alliance members turned 21 and aged out of CCS this month.

Ms. Espinoza inquired about potential increases in grievances following this transition, which Dr. Myers agreed to investigate further as an action item.

**Action**: Dr. Myers to investigate potential increases in grievances due to the members aging out of CCS transition.

**Action Complete:** The Alliance is presently unable to track grievances due to the members aging out of CCS transition based on the available member data. An evaluation was requested to identify if any logic builds could detect this.

#### D. Open Discussion

Dr. Myers facilitated a roundtable for county representatives to share local updates. Feedback on referral processes, mental health access, and ongoing challenges in provider communication and resource tracking was discussed.

**Santa Cruz County** Update: Dr. Cal Gordon reported stable operations and effective collaboration with the Alliance, with regular meetings to address issues as they arise.

**San Benito County** Update: Dr. Hue Nguyen shared positive feedback from staff regarding improved mental and behavioral health referral processes since the program change, with no recent complaints from parents.

**Monterey County** Update: Dr. Lena Malik noted quicker mental health referrals and appreciated the ability to start ABA services before a formal diagnosis but highlighted ongoing difficulties in receiving timely updates from providers, especially for small practices.

**Merced and Mariposa** County Updates: Ms. Becky Shaw and Dr. Michelle Perez reported no significant updates or feedback from their respective communities, Dr. Michelle Perez report that her Mariposa families are not currently part of CCS.

#### Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jacqueline Van Voerkens Clerk of the Advisory Committee

The Whole Child Model Clinical Advisory Committee is a public meeting.



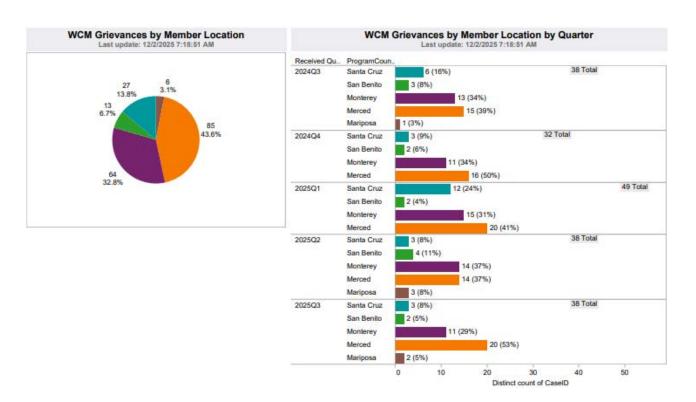
# Whole Child Model Grievances

Q3 2025 Appeal & Grievance (AG) Review
Whole Child Model, Clinical Advisory Committee: WCMCAC

Prepared by: Sarah Sanders, Grievance and Quality Manager

12/16/25

# WCM Q3 2024- Q3 2025 GRIEVANCES by LOCATION





**ProgramCounty** 

Santa Cruz

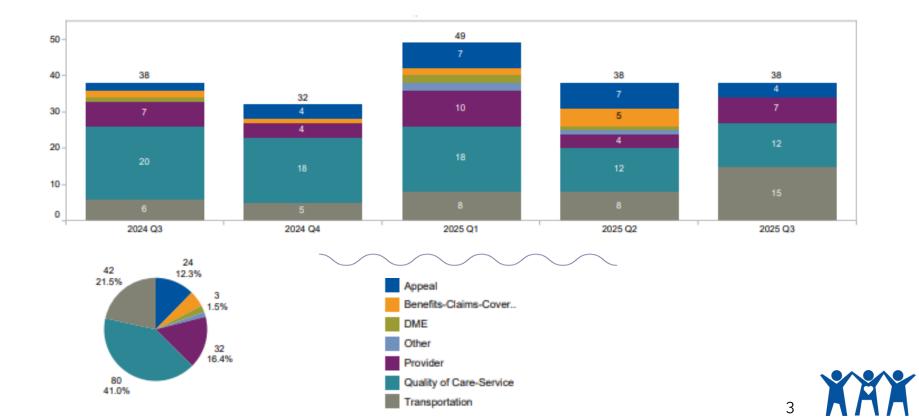
San Benito

Monterey

Merced

Mariposa

# WCM Q3 2024 through Q3 2025 GRIEVANCES by TYPE





**WCM Review** 

**Q3 2025 TRENDS** 

# **REVIEW and TRENDS:**

- The Plan closely monitors WCM Grievances to identify trends and raise during Staff Grievance Review Committee (SGRC)
- 2. Overall, WCM Grievance volume remains stable when compared historically.
- 3. During Q3, Transportation made up the **largest** volume of WCM/CCS case types followed by QOC/QOS.
- 4. Common Themes continued:
  - Provider Billing
  - Provider Interactions

# WCM **GRIEVANCE** Actions



- Continue engaged monitoring and interventions.
- Monitoring adults exiting from WCM program.
- Solicit input: Clinical
   Partners, please share any questions or suggestions
   to ssanders@thealliance.health





**Committee:** Whole Child Model Clinical Advisory Committee (WCMCAC)

Original Date: February 2018 Last Revision Date: December November

20<u>25</u>18

Approved by: Santa Cruz - Monterey - Merced - San Benito - Mariposa Managed

Purpose:	The Whole Child Model Clinical Advisory Committee (WCMCAC) is an advisory committee providing input and recommendations to the health plan on important strategic issues that impact California Children Services (CCS) members, families, and providers. The WCCACWCMCAC will provide feedback to assist in meeting the six goals of the WCM:  • Implement Patient and Family- Family Centered Approaches to	
	<ul> <li>Care</li> <li>Improve Care Coordination through an Organized Delivery System</li> <li>Maintain Quality of Services</li> <li>Streamline Care Delivery</li> <li>Build on Lessons Learned</li> <li>Provide Quality, Cost Effective</li> </ul>	
Authority and Responsibility	The primary responsibility of the WCCACWCMCAC is to to advise on clinical issues relating to CCS conditions, including treatment authorization guidelines, and serve as clinical advisers on other clinical issues relating to CCS conditions.  The WCCACWCMCAC will provide perspective on issues relating to diagnosis	



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	and treatment of Alliance members with conditions that have been traditionally covered through the California Children's Services (CCS) program. In addition, the WCCACWCMCAC will review and offer advice about policies, programs and initiatives relating to care of members as the CCS program is integrated into the Whole Child Program.
Membership	WCMCAC members are appointed by the Alliance board. Membership includes:  The Alliance Chief Medical Officer, or Board Certified Pediatric Medical Director.  Each County's CCS Medical Director  At least four (4) CCS paneled providers, ideally to include with representation from each of the Alliance counties served.  Membership will reflect demographic representation within practical limits, including geographic distribution, primary care and specialists.  Selection of Members: Members are recruited several ways including, but not limited to:  1. Recommendation of CCS staff representing each County 2. Volunteer by individual physician 3. Physicians with specific expertise may be invited to assist with the group's work.



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	WCCACWCMCAC members will be appointed by the Alliance Board.  Alliance staff, including, but not limited to the Chief-Health Services OfficerExecutive Director, Utilization Management Director, Quality Improvement Director, Provider Services Director, and Member Services Director may attend depending upon agenda items.
Terms	Members will be appointed to a one-year term. At the end of the term the member may be reappointed to a subsequent one-year term or terms.  Physicians unable to attend at least half of meetings will be encouraged to yield their seats to others with more compliant schedules.
WCMCAC Chair	The Chief Medical Officer or Board Certified Pediatric Medical Director will serve as Chair.
Meetings	As per contractual requirement Exhibit L 3.1.3 WCM Advisory Committees: In Accordance with W&I section 14094.17(a) and APL 23-034 "Contractor must create and maintain a WCM clinical advisory committee, separate and distinct from its Quality Improvement and Health Equity Committee described in Exhibit A, Attachment III, Section 2.3 (Quality Improvement and Health Equity Committee). The WCM clinical advisory committee must be composed of Contractor's Medical Officer or the



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equivalent, the county CCS medical director, and at least four CCS paneled Providers.		
1. The WCM clinical a must advise on clinical acceptations, include authorization guideling clinical advisers on ot relating to CCS conditions.	al issues relating to ding treatment les, and to serve as ther clinical issues	
2. The WCM clinical a must meet at least quently if determine WCCAC will meet quently minimum of three (3)	uarterly, or more ned necessaryThe arterly, with a	
Meetings fall within the (Brown Act). An oppose comment will be offer meeting materials will distributed to PAG meaning publicly at least 72 house meeting.	red and agendas and I be published and embers and posted	
WCMCAC is a non-vo	, , ,	
Meeting Compensation  WCCACWCMCAC magnetic for in-person participa wccacwcmcac.	•	
Agenda, Minutes, Reports WCMCAC reports to t	the Deard of	



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Approved by: Santa Cruz - Monterey - Merced - San Benito - Mariposa Managed

	Commissioners, through Committee Minutes as well as recommendations for policy revisions and innovations.
	Alliance staff will work in collaboration with the Chair to develop the agenda for each meeting.
Alliance staff are responsible for agend and meeting material production and distribution.	
	Agendas and meeting materials will be published and distributed to WCMCAC members and posted publicly at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to each meeting.
	Alliance staff will record minutes of meetings which will be approved by the WCMCAC members at each subsequent meeting.
Open and Public meetings	WCCACWCMCAC meetings are open to the public
	To facilitate participation WCMCAC members may attend meetings telephonically.
Meeting Location	Meetings will take place virtually, in the Alliance offices listed below and joined together via videoconferencing, telephonically.
	<ul> <li>In Merced County: Board Room</li> <li>530 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B, Merced,</li> <li>CA</li> <li>In Monterey County: Board Room</li> </ul>



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Medical Care Commission Alliance Board

	<ul> <li>950 East Blanco Road, Suite 101,</li> <li>Salinas, CA</li> <li>In Santa Cruz County: Board Room</li> <li>1600 Green Hills Road, Suite 101, Scotts</li> <li>Valley, CA</li> </ul>
Translation and Interpreter Services / Assistive Devices	Requests for translation and interpreter services, including sign-language interpretation or other assistive devices such as real-time c_aptioning, note takers, reading or writing assistance and conversion of meeting materials into Braille, large print or computer flash drive can be made available if requested at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting.
Review of Charter	The WCMCAC shall review this charter at least annually. Any proposed changes shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

**Revision History:** 

Review Date	<b>Revised Date</b>	Changes Made By	Approved By
11/8/2018	12/6/2018	Danita Carlson,	Alliance Board
		Government	
		Relations Director	
11/01/2025	11/01/2025	Dianna Myers, MD,	
		Interim CHEO	



# **Interpreting Services Available**

# Telephonic Interpreting

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Over 200 languages available

# Face-to-Face Interpreting

- Interpreter request form required from provider
- 5-7 business days for American Sign Language (ASL)
- 7-10 business days for all other languages
- Urgent requests for interpreters are available in some cases

# Virtual Remote Interpreting (VRI)

- Interpreter request form required from provider
- 5-7 business days for American Sign Language (ASL)
- 7-10 business days for all other languages
- Urgent requests for interpreters are available in some cases



# **Interpreter Request Form**





Please complete this form to request interpreting Services for an Alliance member. You can also request an interpreter by calling the Alliance Health Education Line at 800-700-3874, ext. 5580. Allow 5-7 business days for all American Sign Language (ASL) and 7-10 business days for all non-ASL requests prior to appointment.

#### **Requesting Provider**

Date of request:	Facility Name:
Contact Person:	Phone:
Email:	Fax:
☐ American Sign Language (ASL)	* *
☐ Non-ASL, specify foreign language	:
☐ Virtual Remote Interpreting (VRI), For VRI, provide login information/link for	
☐ Indigenous Language, specify nar	ne of town, district, and state, if possible:

Note: To ensure we match an accurate indigenous interpreter, a phone call will be made to the patient when requesting for an indigenous language.

#### **Patient Information**

Name:	Alliance ID:	DOB:
Phone:	Message Phone:	

#### Appointment Information

Appointment Date:		Time:	
Type of Appointment:			
Length of Appointmen	nt:	Physician Name:	
Facility Name:		<u> </u>	
Facility Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	

All cancellations or changes must be submitted with a minimum of 48 hours prior to a confirmed appointment. Please submit a separate request for each appointment. For all questions, please call the Alliance Health Education Line at 800-700-3874, ext. 5580.

Please fax this completed form to 831-430-5850

#### Request In-person or VRI Services

- Complete request form
- ✓ Submit by fax to Alliance C&L team at 831-430-5850
- ✓ C&L team works with multiple vendors to schedule interpreters
- Confirmation details will be sent to the requesting provider

#### **Questions?**

- ✓ Email ListC&L@thealliance.health
- Call the Alliance Health Education Line 1-800-700-3874, ext. 5580
- Report any issues as soon as possible via email or call the Health Education Line



## Materials Available Flyers



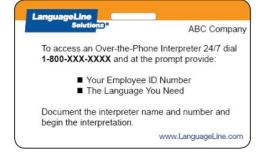




## **Materials Available**

## Phone Interpreting Services





3 x 2" durable plastic card badge



## **Questions?**

#### **Alliance Health Education Line**

1-800-700-3874, ext. 5580

Cultural and Linguistics (C&L) Team Email

ListC&L@thealliance.health



### **C&L Team Contacts**

Quality & Health Programs C&L Supervisor, Ivonne Muñoz Phone #: 831-430-5575 Email: imunoz@thealliance.health

Program Advisor - Quality & Health Programs , Kevin Lopez
Phone #: 831-430-4153
Email: klopez@thealliance.health

Quality & Health Programs Manager, Desirre Herrera Phone #: 209-381-5364 Email: <a href="mailto:dherrera@thealliance.health">dherrera@thealliance.health</a>



# Thank you!





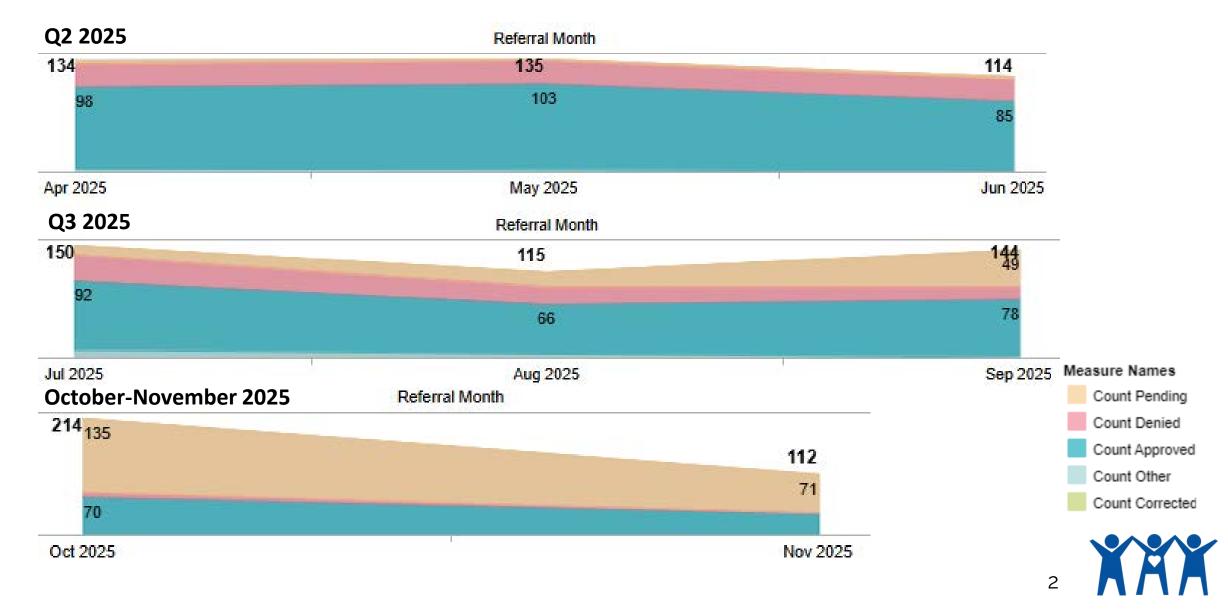
# WCM Clinical Advisory Committee

Pediatric Complex Case Mgmt Ashley McEowen, RN

12.16.2025

# WCM CCS Referral Volumes

# Alliance CCS Referral Volumes



# **Referral Counts by County**

Q3 2025	Oct & Nov 2025

• Merced: 179

Monterey: 143

Santa Cruz: 69

Mariposa: 7

San Benito: 11

Total Referrals: 409

Merced: 113

Monterey: 132

Santa Cruz: 56

Mariposa: 1

San Benito: 21

Total Referrals: 326



# Referral Approval Rates by County

# Q3 2025 Oct & Nov 2025

• Merced: 63.1%

Monterey: 51.7%

• Santa Cruz: 59.4%

Mariposa: 14.3%

San Benito: 63.6%

Average Approval Rate: 57.7%

Merced: 38.9%

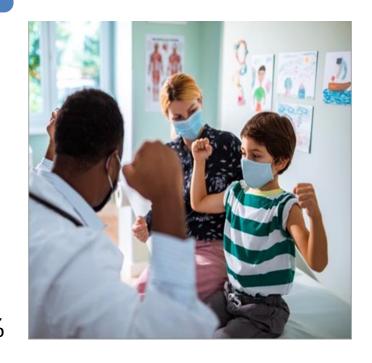
Monterey: 29.5%

• Santa Cruz: 39.3%

Mariposa: 0.0%

• San Benito: 14.3%

Average Approval Rate: 33.7%





# Referral Denial Rates by County

Q3 2025	Oct & Nov 2025

• Merced: 19.6%

• Monterey: 16.8%

• Santa Cruz: 15.9%

• Mariposa: 14.3%

San Benito: 27.3%

Average Denial Rate: 18.1%

• Merced: 1.8%

Monterey: 6.1%

Santa Cruz: 0.0%

Mariposa: 0.0%

San Benito: 0.0%

Average Denial Rate: 3.1%



# **WCM Member Volumes**

December 2025: WCM Members

## **Age Out Volumes**

• Merced: 3,635

• Monterey: 4,323

• Santa Cruz: 1,306

San Benito: 392

• Mariposa: 73

• Total: 9,729

• Merced: 27

Monterey: 23

• Santa Cruz: 13

• San Benito: 1

• Mariposa: 0

• Total: 64







# WHOLE CHILD CLINICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2026

Thursday, February 19th 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

All Meetings will be held via virtually