



Correspondence  
Bd. 5/24/22, Item 54

18012 Mitchell South  
Irvine, CA 92614

949.660.7600  
UnitedWayOC.org

May 16, 2022

Chairman Chaffee and Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Orange County Board of Supervisors  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

*Subject: Support for Item #54*

Dear Chairman Chaffee and Honorable Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Orange County United Way, I am writing in support of CalOptima's ordinance change to permit the County Organized Health System to offer a Covered California health plan, also known as an exchange or marketplace plan. The Board of Supervisors will have two hearings on the matter, May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Orange County is fortunate to have CalOptima as a high quality Medi-Cal plan for our community's most vulnerable residents. Further, CalOptima has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to the community since 1995, continually expanding its programs and the number of residents it serves. At this time, 1 in 4 Orange County residents is a CalOptima member.

United Way shares CalOptima's priority of providing continuity of care for Medi-Cal members. Many residents, due to life circumstances, such as losing or gaining employment or experiencing a family crisis, waver between being eligible for Medi-Cal and being ineligible. The temporary loss of Medi-Cal coverage in which people are enrolled and disenrolled is referred to as "churn." Having to switch insurers, find a new doctor and worry about continued access to care is chaotic, challenging and concerning — particularly for those facing chronic health conditions. If CalOptima had a Covered California plan, former Medi-Cal members could more easily transition to that plan and keep their same providers.

Further, United Way appreciates that CalOptima has shown nearly three decades of commitment to bolstering the safety net and serving the local community. CalOptima has expressed that its Covered California plan will bring revenue that can be invested back into Orange County. Recently, CalOptima committed a total of \$58 million for grants to community health centers and funding for a street medicine program to improve homeless health services. With a new revenue stream of premium income from a Covered California plan, CalOptima will be able to further support its community-focused mission as a public agency, which is not beholden financially to shareholders with incentives counter to the mission. CalOptima has stated that it will use any profits to further enhance care and access for all in Orange County.

Like United Way, CalOptima has deep roots in Orange County and has demonstrated its ability to cultivate relationships and build provider and resource networks. We believe that CalOptima's expansion into a marketplace plan is a natural next step, and the timing is right in the post-pandemic

**WE FIGHT FOR THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, HOUSING AND  
FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN ORANGE COUNTY.**



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environment. Offering residents the choice of a local health plan that knows them and our county creates a stronger health care system overall.

Again, Orange County United Way extends our full support to CalOptima's proposed Covered California plan for the benefit to both members and the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan B. Parks".

Susan B. Parks  
President & CEO  
Orange County United Way

May 5, 2022

Correspondence  
Bd. 5/24/22, Item 54

Orange County Board of Supervisors  
333 W Santa Ana Blvd  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing in support of CalOptima's ordinance change to permit the County Organized Health System to offer a Covered California health plan, also known as an exchange or marketplace plan. The Board of Supervisors will have two hearings on the matter, May 10 and May 24.

Orange County is fortunate to have CalOptima as a high quality Medi-Cal plan for our community's vulnerable residents. Further, CalOptima has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to the community since 1995, continually expanding its programs and the number of residents it serves. I am proud to be part of CalOptima's broad, well-established provider network, with more than 10,400 physicians and 41 acute and rehab hospitals.

As physician executive with decades of experience working cross-functionally with administrators, healthcare professionals and para-professionals to develop and execute processes designed to highlight superior evidence-based patient care, safety and compliance and as a provider of addiction medicine and MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) to this county's most vulnerable patients, I support improved access to health care in Orange County.

A CalOptima Covered California plan will expand the options to ensure more lives are covered. Local residents looking for affordable, comprehensive health coverage through Covered California would benefit from having access to a CalOptima plan in the future. A CalOptima plan will give Orange County residents more choice. I also appreciate that a CalOptima Covered California plan would extend local expertise and amplify community resources. With deep roots in Orange County, CalOptima has been a mission-driven plan since inception and continues to be focused on serving residents. CalOptima has cultivated relationships and built provider and resource networks for nearly three decades. I believe Orange County is unique — its composition, provider dynamics, regional disparities and more. Residents may prefer a local health plan that knows them and their neighborhood. Expansion into a marketplace plan is a natural next step for CalOptima, and the timing is right considering changes in the post-pandemic health care landscape.

The Public Health Emergency (PHE) is anticipated to draw to a close this summer. I share CalOptima's priority of continuity of care for members in creating a marketplace plan. The end of the PHE will likely result large numbers of members losing CalOptima coverage because members' Medi-Cal eligibility was not reassessed during the PHE. Former CalOptima members would benefit from being able to purchase a CalOptima plan that lets them stay with their same doctor. This would allow for more seamless transitions.

I offer my full support to CalOptima for its proposed entrance into Covered California with a commercial health plan that stands to benefit both members and providers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mario San Bartolome



May 5, 2022

Orange County Board of Supervisors  
333 W Santa Ana Blvd  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of KCS Health Center (Korean Community Services), I am writing in support of CalOptima's ordinance change to permit the County Organized Health System to offer a Covered California health plan, also known as an exchange or marketplace plan. The Board of Supervisors will have two hearings on the matter, May 10 and May 24.

KCS shares CalOptima's priority of providing continuity of care for Medi-Cal members. Many residents, due to life circumstances, such as losing or gaining employment or experiencing a family crisis, waver between being eligible for Medi-Cal and being ineligible. The temporary loss of Medi-Cal coverage in which people are enrolled and disenrolled can be chaotic, challenging and concerning — particularly for those facing chronic health conditions. This situation is particularly relevant to the immigrants, unhoused and criminal justice populations — all patient populations KCS serves. If CalOptima had a Covered California plan, former Medi-Cal members could more easily transition to that plan and keep their same providers.

KCS appreciates that CalOptima has shown nearly three decades of commitment to bolstering the safety net and serving the local community. CalOptima has expressed that its Covered California plan will bring revenue that can be invested back into Orange County. Recently, CalOptima committed a total of \$58 million for grants to community health centers and funding for a street medicine program to improve homeless health services. With a new revenue stream of premium income from a Covered California plan, CalOptima will be able to further support its community-focused mission as a public agency, which is not beholden financially to shareholders with incentives counter to the mission. CalOptima has stated that it will use any profits to further enhance care and access for all in Orange County.

Like KCS, CalOptima has deep roots in Orange County and has demonstrated its ability to cultivate relationships and build provider and resource networks. We believe that CalOptima's expansion into a marketplace plan is a natural next step, and the timing is right in the post-pandemic environment. Offering residents the choice of a local health plan that knows them and our county creates a stronger health care system overall. Accordingly, KCS extends our full support to CalOptima's proposed Covered California plan for the benefit to both members and the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "EA", is written over a horizontal line.

Ellen Ahn, JD, MSW  
Executive Director

May 11, 2022

Dear Orange County Board of Supervisors,

I am a CalOptima member and KCS Health Center patient. I am also the past patient representative board member at KCS. I am writing in support of CalOptima's ordinance change to permit the County Organized Health System to offer a Covered California health plan, also known as an exchange or marketplace plan. The Board of Supervisors will have two hearings on the matter, May 10 and May 24.

Orange County is fortunate to have CalOptima as a high quality Medi-Cal plan for our community's vulnerable residents. Further, CalOptima has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to the community since 1995, continually expanding its programs and the number of residents it serves. At this time, 1 in 4 Orange County residents is a CalOptima member.

Many residents like me, due to life circumstances, such as losing or gaining employment or experiencing a family crisis, waver between being eligible for Medi-Cal and being ineligible. Having to switch insurers, find a new doctor and worry about continued access to care is chaotic, challenging and concerning — particularly for those facing chronic health conditions. If CalOptima had a Covered California plan, former Medi-Cal members could more easily transition to that plan and keep their same providers. Offering residents the choice of a local health plan that knows them and our county creates a stronger health care system overall.

I fully support CalOptima's proposed Covered California plan for the benefit to both members and the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Choong Mo Kwak".

Choong Mo Kwak



# **The Cambodian Family Community Center**

## ***A Multi-Ethnic Human Services Agency Promoting Social Health***

1626 East Fourth Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 571-1966

[www.cambodianfamily.org](http://www.cambodianfamily.org)

May 10, 2022

Chairman Doug Chaffee – Fourth District  
Vice Chairman Donald P. Wagner – Third District  
Supervisor Andrew Do – First District  
Supervisor Katrina Foley – Second District  
Supervisor Lisa A. Bartlett – Fifth District

Correspondence  
Bd. 5/24/22, Item 54

### **Re: Community Stakeholder Letter of Support for CalOptima in Covered California**

Dear Orange County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of The Cambodian Family Community Center (TCF), I am writing in support of CalOptima's ordinance change to permit the County Organized Health System to offer a Covered California health plan, also known as an exchange or marketplace plan.

TCF is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, multi-ethnic, human services agency that has been serving the refugee and immigrant communities of Orange County, California for over 42 years. We were established in 1980 by a group of Cambodian refugees who had escaped the Khmer Rouge regime in their native country. Since then, we have expanded our services to immigrants and refugees from around the world, while establishing deep roots in our community. We serve a unique population that needs a variety of mental health services, but usually has trouble navigating the health care system, or suffers from the stigma of mental health.

Orange County is fortunate to have CalOptima as a high quality Medi-Cal plan for our community's vulnerable residents. Further, CalOptima has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to the community since 1995, continually expanding its programs and the number of residents it serves. At this time, 1 in 4 Orange County residents is a CalOptima member.

TCF shares CalOptima's priority of providing continuity of care for Medi-Cal members, as over 85% of the clients we serve are CalOptima members. Many residents, due to life circumstances, such as losing or gaining employment or experiencing a family crisis, waver between being eligible for Medi-Cal and being ineligible. The temporary loss of Medi-Cal coverage in which people are enrolled and disenrolled is referred to as "churn." Having to switch insurers, find a new doctor and worry about continued access to care is chaotic, challenging and concerning — particularly for those facing chronic health conditions. If CalOptima had a Covered California plan, former Medi-Cal members could more easily transition to that plan and keep their same providers.

Further, TCF appreciates that CalOptima has shown nearly three decades of commitment to bolstering the safety net and serving the local community. CalOptima has expressed that its Covered California plan will bring revenue that can be invested back into Orange County. Recently, CalOptima committed a total of \$58 million for grants to community health centers and funding for a street medicine program to improve homeless health services. With a new revenue stream of premium income from a Covered California plan, CalOptima will be able to further support its community-focused mission as a public agency, which is not beholden financially to shareholders with incentives counter to the mission. CalOptima has stated that it will use any profits to further enhance care and access for all in Orange County.

Like TCF, CalOptima has deep roots in Orange County and has demonstrated its ability to cultivate relationships and build provider and resource networks. We believe that CalOptima's expansion into a marketplace plan is a natural next step, and the timing is right in the post-pandemic environment. Offering residents the choice of a local health plan that knows them and our county creates a stronger health care system overall.

Again, TCF extends our full support to CalOptima's proposed Covered California plan for the benefit to both members and the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vattana Peong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vattana Peong, MPH  
Executive Director  
The Cambodian Family Community Center