

# MOLINACARES IN CALIFORNIA

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## WELCOME FROM PLAN PRESIDENT ABBIE TOTTEN

The MolinaCares Accord (MolinaCares) and Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) work together to provide best-in-class care to Californians – addressing the health care needs and the social determinants of health that prevent Californians from achieving the best health outcomes possible. MHC partners with a wide network of physician, hospitals, and other providers to work with Molina members to get healthy and stay healthy. MolinaCares and MHC support the mission of and work closely with community organizations that many Californians rely on for services and resources necessary to help them focus on their health – providing nutritious foods, transitional housing, job support and training opportunities. Together, MolinaCares and MHC work to make sure Californians have all the tools they need to thrive.

This month's newsletter updates you on how MolinaCares and MHC are working every day in the communities we serve to keep Californians healthy. As the state faces challenges from the COVID-19 Delta variant, MolinaCares and MHC are dedicated to supporting all communities facing this new public health challenge. Our August newsletter features our ongoing efforts in the community to promote educational initiatives, hosting in-person and virtual events, and partnering with local nonprofits to honor community champions.

We look forward to staying in touch!

**Abbie Totten**  
Plan President  
Molina Healthcare of California

**Abbie Totten**  
Plan President  
[Abbie.Totten@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:Abbie.Totten@molinahealthcare.com)

**Ruthy Argumedo**  
AVP, Community Engagement  
[Ruthy.Argumedo@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:Ruthy.Argumedo@molinahealthcare.com)

# MOLINACARES IN THE COMMUNITY



## MOLINACARES RECOGNIZES LOCAL COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

MolinaCares recently recognized four Inland Empire residents and four San Diego residents for their compassion and altruism through the MolinaCares Community Champions Awards. This awards program was created to honor and bring together people whose leadership, volunteerism, and public advocacy embody the spirit of service and community. You can learn more about the Inland Empire champions [here](#).

Winners each receive a \$5,000 grant for the non-profit organization of their choice and a trophy. Inland Empire winners were Dr. Mona Salomo-Davies with Community Outreach Ministry in Riverside County, John Epps who serves on the Health Assessments and Research for Communities Board, Dr. Tom Dolan, executive director of Inland Congregations United for Change, and Julieta Barraza, a family support worker for El Sol Neighborhood Education Center.

San Diego winners were Cassie Bates with San Diego Rescue Mission, Saw Pay Kay a Union of Pan Asian Community member, Maria Barraza a nutrition educator at Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, and Vincent Hall, Free to Thrive board member.

## PROMOTING HEALTH EQUITY AND WHOLE PERSON CARE

In our ongoing efforts to support Californians who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, we hosted our second virtual panel in a series of virtual events dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities. This month's panel, **Promoting Health Equity and Whole Person Care** discussed the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color.

State Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson) offered welcoming remarks before a panel of experts moderated by *Sacramento Bee* reporter Kim Bojórquez. The panel of experts included Rachel Rios, executive director of La Familia Counseling Center in Sacramento; Kiran Savage-Sangwan, executive director of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network; and Rhonda M. Smith, executive director of the California Black Health Network.

Participants focused on social determinants of health and the needs of vulnerable communities in California. They discussed the impact of COVID-19 on an essential workforce predominantly staffed by communities of color, and higher rates of job loss and chronic health conditions making them more susceptible to severe impacts of the virus.

You can watch the full panel discussion [here](#).



# MOLINACARES IN THE COMMUNITY

## MOLINACARES HOSTS DR. CLEO COOKING CLUB FOR YOUTH

[The MolinaCares Accord](#) (“MolinaCares”), in collaboration with [Molina Healthcare of California](#) (“Molina”), partnered with El Centro Regional Medical Center (ECRMC) to host two [Dr. Cleo’s Cooking Club events](#) for youth ages 5-13 in Holtville and Brawley in July. At each event, MolinaCares and ECRMC engaged several dozen members of the local Boys & Girls Club in a class focused on health and nutrition.

A health educator from ECRMC taught about the importance of handwashing and balanced diets before leading a hands-on demonstration on how to make nutritious snacks. The Boys & Girls Club members learned how to create “ants on a log” using celery, cream cheese, and raisins and “snowflake balls” using almond butter, cereal flakes, and graham crackers. Each child was provided a Molina chef hat and a workstation, where they found hand sanitizer, snack ingredients, and a Dr. Cleo recipe brochure. At the end of the event, all young chefs received a Molina bag with a frisbee and jump rope to encourage physical fitness, along with health education materials.

## MOLINACARES JOINS NORC MCO LEARNING HUB

Starting last month, the MolinaCares Accord joined forces with the NORC Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) Learning Hub to launch a Managed Care webinar series. The series will include insights from national experts discussing major trends, initiatives, programs, and a wide variety of topics on how to improve the Medicaid program.

The first panel, *Innovations in Medicaid with Support from MolinaCares Accord: How can Medicaid meet the behavioral health (BH) needs of their members post-pandemic*, took place on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. This first webinar, in a six-part series, covered substance use disorders, overdoses, deaths, and the mental health struggles that have risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can listen to the full panel [here](#).



The graphic features the NORC logo at the top left, followed by the text "NEW MANAGED CARE WEBINAR SERIES" and the main title "Meeting the Behavioral Health Needs of Medicaid Members Post-Pandemic". Below the title are three circular headshots of the participants: John McCarthy (Moderator, Founding Partner at Speire Healthcare Strategies), Dr. Mario San Bartolomé (Speaker, Medical Director at Molina Healthcare Inc.), and Jonathan Ciampi (Speaker, Chief Executive Officer at Bright Heart Health). The bottom of the graphic is an orange bar containing "NORC MCO Learning Hub", the MolinaCares logo, and the date and time "July 29 2-3 pm ET".

## MOLINACARES IN THE COMMUNITY



### MOLINACARES DONATES TO FOOD PANTRY

[The MolinaCares Accord](#) (“MolinaCares”), in collaboration with [Molina Healthcare of California](#) (“Molina”), awarded a \$20,000 grant to [North County Lifeline](#) in a special presentation. The funds will be used to establish a new MolinaCares food pantry to serve transitional youth and unhoused individuals in San Diego. MolinaCares’ grant will also aid Lifeline’s drop-in center, which provides crisis intervention, basic needs, housing placement, and access to showers, laundry, and computers.

“North County Lifeline is exactly that, it’s an essential lifeline in the San Diego community providing resources and services that help unhoused San Diegans stay well and get back on track,” said Carolyn Ingram, executive vice president of external affairs for Molina Healthcare. “Molina is a proud supporter of North County Lifeline’s work, and we hope the MolinaCares food pantry will help bolster the organization’s important mission.”

### MOLINACARES DONATES TO BIDDY MASON FOUNDATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH PROGRAM

[The MolinaCares Accord](#) (“MolinaCares”), in collaboration with [Molina Healthcare of California](#) (“Molina”), awarded a \$20,000 grant to support the HomeAid Los Angeles Biddy Mason Project, a collaboration with [HomeAid Los Angeles](#) and the [Biddy Mason Foundation](#), to renovate a building that will serve as a foster youth center in Los Angeles.

The partnership is part of MolinaCares’ endeavor to address inequities in health outcomes among foster youth by providing greater access to care and support. MolinaCares presented the donation during the [Biddy Mason Birthday Celebration](#) on August 15.

Through the renovation project, the Biddy Mason Foundation will support numerous programs that contribute to the overall well-being of foster youth, such as behavioral health education, life skills, family reunification, and mentoring. MolinaCares will also supply a fully stocked MolinaCares Closet equipped with hygiene supplies and everyday necessities.

“MolinaCares is committed to improving health outcomes beyond traditional care settings throughout Los Angeles,” said Abbie Totten, plan president of Molina Healthcare of California. “We will continue to seek opportunities that strengthen and elevate young people, not only in L.A., but throughout California.”

“The mission of the Biddy Mason Charitable Foundation has always been to work in collaboration with community partners,” said Jackie Broxton, Executive Director of the Biddy Mason Foundation. “Los Angeles County is home to the largest foster care population in the nation. There is no way one organization can meet the needs of the 30,000 young people within the foster care system. We are proud to partner with Molina Cares. Working together our impact will be stronger and longer lasting.”

The HomeAid Los Angeles Biddy Mason Project includes renovation of a turnkey house on a long-term lease from California Lutheran Housing (CLH). HomeAid Los Angeles will aid with the exterior renovation work, including a transformation of the front porch, the addition of handicap ramps, landscaping, the conversion of the garage into a resource center, and the creation of a backyard event space.

# SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

## VIRTUAL PANEL

JOIN US FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION

### Addressing Social Determinants of Health Against the Backdrop of a Pandemic

The MolinaCares Accord invites you to join Dr. Sayeed Khan for a panel discussion on how government, community-based organizations and health care plans work together to reduce disparities and inequities for underserved populations, including Medi-Cal recipients, on a range of critical issues from mental health to provider access and key services like food security, education and housing.

**Thursday, September 30th**  
**11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. PT**

JOIN US FOR THE THIRD VIRTUAL PANEL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30TH. YOU CAN REGISTER FOR THE EVENT [HERE](#).

## COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

MolinaCares is partnering with local leaders and community-based organizations to host COVID-19 vaccine clinics in San Diego and San Bernardino Counties. Additional details are below.

**San Diego:** Co-hosting with MAAC, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and Vacunas (Vaccines for All).

**Date:** August 28  
**Time:** 9 a.m.—3 p.m. PT  
**Address:** 1387 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91911

**San Bernardino:** Hosting in partnership with San Bernardino County.

**Dates:** August 28, September 18, October 9  
**Time:** 9 a.m.—3 p.m. PT  
**Address:** 550 E Hospitality Lane Suite 100 San Bernardino, CA 92408

## CONTACT US

Phone : 877 665 4622

Email : [contactus@molinacares.com](mailto:contactus@molinacares.com)

Website : [molina-cares.com/california](http://molina-cares.com/california)

## OUR LOCATION

200 Oceangate, Suite 100  
Long Beach, CA 90802

