

Agenda Item 16: Medical Service Study Areas (MSSA) Guidelines Project

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June 2020 Song-Brown Policy Meeting

Objectives

- Establish MSSA background.
- Review MSSA Guidelines project.

What are MSSAs?

- Service area component of provider shortage area designations (including Primary Care Shortage Areas and federal Health Professional Shortage Areas).
- Developed by OSHPD and the California Healthcare Workforce Commission to prioritize Song-Brown grant funding.

Current MSSA Guidelines

- Each MSSA is composed of one or more complete census tracts.
- MSSAs will not cross county lines.
- All population centers within the MSSA are within 30 minutes travel time to the largest population center.
- MSSAs generally align with “communities” in the sense of geographic, cultural, and sociodemographic similarities.
- Population requirements.
 - Urban:
 - Population range 75,000 to 125,000.
 - May not be smaller than five square miles.
 - Rural:
 - Population density of less than 250 persons per square mile.
 - No population center exceeds 50,000.
 - Frontier:
 - Population density of less than 11 persons per square.

MSSA Background

- Song-Brown Healthcare Workforce Training Act (1973): Establishes a Commission which identifies California's areas of unmet need for awarding grants.
- National Health Planning and Development Act (1975): Establishes legislative authority for OSHPD.
- Garamendi Rural Health Services Act (1976): Required Commission to designate rural areas of unmet need for primary care services.

MSSA Background: OSHPD Role

Beginning with the 1990 Census, OSHPD/California's Primary Care Office (PCO) reassesses the MSSA **boundaries** (shapes) with every Decennial Census by analyzing changes in:

- Population
- Demographics
- Socio-economics
- Census tracts

MSSA Background:

Commission Role

- 2002: Commission adopted MSSA guidelines (rules).
- 2012: Commission adopted last decennial MSSA reconfiguration (boundaries/shapes).
 - Next decennial reconfiguration: 2022
- Process:
 - Staff perform data analysis and stakeholder engagement.
 - Staff present analysis and summary of stakeholder input to Commission.
 - Commission considers public comment and staff recommendation.

MSSA Guidelines Project

- Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Cooperative Agreement (2019): All state PCOs responsible for establishment of rational service areas by 2023.
 - Opportunity to re-evaluate MSSA **guidelines**.
 - Developed in the 1970s.
 - California's community demographics have likely changed.
 - Existing MSSA methods do not consider geographically discrete communities.
- California Health and Human Services Data Governance Subcommittee Project (2019-2021).

MSSA Guidelines Project: Overview

- Focus on primary care.
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders to solicit input.
- Develop MSSA/rational service area guidelines scalable based on available data (e.g. minimal, moderate, and robust data sets).
- Serve as a model for HRSA and other states.
- Prepare OSHPD for next decennial MSSA reconfiguration.

MSSA Guidelines Project: Participants

- California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission
- OSHPD's Healthcare Workforce Development Division and Healthcare Analytics Branch
- Department of Health Care Services
- State Office of Rural Health
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Managed Health Care
- Los Angeles County Health Services
- Los Angeles Public Health
- Tulare County Public Health
- Alameda County
- California Primary Care Association
- California Academy of Family Physicians
- Physicians for a Healthy California
- California Medical Association

MSSA Guidelines Project: Policy Advisory Committee And Technical Work Group

	Policy Advisory Committee	Technical Work Group
Subject Matter Expertise	Policy-makers with background in delivery of primary care health services and/or health disparities accessing primary care.	Technical experts possessing in-depth, targeted knowledge of data analysis and/or GIS.
Role	Provide input for development of rational service areas for primary care health services.	Review, evaluate, and support the PCO's data analysis and development of appropriate GIS.

MSSA Guidelines Project:

Schedule

Spring 2021:

- Complete collaborative interorganizational project.
- Conduct public stakeholder engagement meetings in Northern and Southern California.

June 2021 Policy meeting:

- Present summary of stakeholder feedback.
- Propose MSSA guidelines for action.