

**March 21, 2016**

## Members stand up for #BetterValleyHealth



Members of the Better Valley Health Coalition, seeking to improve access to affordable quality healthcare for all residents, spoke up for fairness and partnership at a San Joaquin Valley Insurance Authority (SJVIA) board meeting on March 18.

A recent review of the Insurance



Authority's finances shows serious issues – just as workers covered by the plan have been pointing out for almost a year.

Debra Perez, a Social Worker III with Fresno County, told the board, “We have answers and expertise. We are willing to partner with you. Bring us to the table.” The coalition was formed to address structural issues with SJVIA that, if unchecked, could send the plan into a downward spiral.



**Aon Hewitt, the company called in to review SJVIA, described the plan as having aggressive renewals taking blind risks with no money in the bank—and no margin for error.**

Perez stressed to the board the impact on public services when public workers themselves face challenges to affordable healthcare. “The critical public services our members provide are diminished when they don’t have access to reliable, affordable healthcare. Even this level of uncertainty is going to take a toll on the services that our agencies provide.”



SJVIA is responsible for more than 17,000 lives across 26 public agencies. As public workers enrolled in the healthcare program, we need to be integral partners in order to ensure the best health outcomes for our communities. Coalition members shared with the board our guiding principles and preliminary highlights from a healthcare survey conducted in March to assess the needs of public workers covered by SJVIA health plan.

You can take the survey here : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bvhs521web>

**Our message to the Board was clear:  
Let’s work together with transparency and accountability.**