

Alumni Hero

Jim Cotter, MD, MPH



Dr. Cotter graduated from UCLA with a BA in Biology in 1974. He then attended George Washington University Medical School and received his medical degree in 1978. He completed a 3 year residency in family medicine at the UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center in 1981.

Following residency, Dr. Cotter served in the National Health Service Corps in Lake County, CA from 1981 until 1985. He then practiced as a solo family physician in Clearlake, California from 1985 to 1990. He joined The Permanente Medical Group at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Offices in Napa CA in 1990. He was appointed Physician in charge of the Napa medical offices in 1993 and served in that capacity until 2014. Dr. Cotter also served as an Assistant Physician in Chief at the Vallejo Medical Center from 1996 to 2014.

Dr. Cotter's activity and interest in community health led him to Touro University, where he received a Master in Public Health degree in 2011. His primary interests in public health are access to healthcare for children and the care for vulnerable populations.

Dr. Cotter joined Partnership HealthPlan of California in 2014. PHC cares for 550,000 MediCal members in 14 northern California counties. Dr. Cotter's responsibilities at PHC include health plan operations for Napa County and management of intensive outpatient care programs for medically complex patients and palliative care programs across the PHC service areas.

Dr. Cotter is the president of the Napa County Community Health Initiative. He is past president of the Napa County Medical Society and a Board Trustee for the California Medical Association. He is on the board and co-medical director of the Napa Valley Marathon.