
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2010

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Michelle Scanlon (Bi-State PCA), Lisa Maynes (Member), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Madeleine Mongan (VMS), Michael Sirotkin (COVE), Sharon Henault (Member), Sheila Reed (VVC), Laura Pelosi (VCHA), Jackie Majoros (SLTC Ombudsman), Dale Hackett (Member) and Kristi Kistler (DHMC).

Other Interested Parties: Jen Fredette (MAXIMUS), Sonia Tagliento (MAXIMUS), Barbara Beaty (HP), John McCabe (HP), Sogran Moodley (Molina Health Care), Perry Josey (Molena Health Care) and Donna Sutton Fay (Campaign Health Care Security).

Staff: Susan Besio (DVHA), Lori Collins (DVHA) and Clark Eaton (DVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- June 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes
- September 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes
- Affordable Care Act (ACA) Funding Opportunities (as of 10/28/10)
- DAIL Challenges for Change Summary (as of 10/22/10)
- ESD Benefits Eligibility Processing Statistics (wk of 10/18-22, 2010)
- ESD Health Care Caseload Dynamics (07/08-09/10)

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 24, 2010 and September 23, 2010 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

Commissioner's Update – Susan Besio

The Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), Susan Besio, first discussed the renewal of the DVHA's Global Commitment Waiver. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) did not meet the deadline of October 1, 2010 for Vermont's renewal. A 30 day extension was approved by CMS and it looks like this will be followed up with an additional 30 day extension through the month of November. Terms and conditions introduced in late September are still being discussed/negotiated.

For the SFY '12 budget, the DVHA now has an initial 6% General Fund target (reduction) and a 9% Global Commitment target (reduction) to begin the budget planning process. This represents an impact of \$60-80 million in federal and state funds. The DVHA has also been asked to cover any increases in caseload participation, which has the potential to double the budget reduction impact. Enrollment has been increasing substantially, though the rate of caseload increase appears to be diminishing recently.

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However, this information is very preliminary; it is before the November election and it is premature to consider talking about specifics at this point.

Turning to federal health care reform, Susan discussed highlights from a handout that was provided to the MAB that tracks Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding opportunities that have been released from CMS, HHS and HRSA. New program areas were introduced which included: 1) a Health Insurance Consumer Information grant (\$135k) which has gone to the state's Health Care Ombudsman, 2) an Early Retirement Reinsurance Program (ERRP), 3) Health Insurance Exchange-Planning and establishment Grants – Vermont was quick to issue an RFP in early September and has already has nine excellent proposals we are evaluating to select a strong firm to assist us in HIE plan development, 4) additional program funding of \$500k for Aging and Disability Resource Centers, 5) an Early Childhood Home Visitation Grant Program, which was funded at \$562k, 6) a Medicare Prescription Drug program which provides for additional funding for outreach and assistance for low income programs, and 7) Epidemiology-Laboratory Capacity Grants.

The ACA Funding Opportunities worksheet will be updated monthly on the HCR website; updates also will be distributed regularly to the Joint Fiscal Committee, the HCR Commission and the MAB.

Board Discussion Items – MAB Membership

Following introductions, the board discussed the search for two new consumer members to fill vacancies on the MAB. Clark Eaton reviewed the process; Hilde Hyde, a current consumer alternate member is interested and there are two other new interested individuals. There is a simple application process that will be used and Susan Besio will make the selections. DVHA will continue to collect names/interested parties over the next week or so and then brief applications will be forwarded to candidates.

The board also discussed mentoring for new members. It was suggested that an orientation session could be scheduled at the beginning of a future MAB meeting. The MAB reference manual will be updated and a list of acronyms and resources/data will be added, similar to the acronyms and other information provided in DVHA's annual Budget Book appendix. Clark Eaton can schedule time with new members to cover the MAB manual, administrative and statutory requirements. A "buddy assignment" from the board could also be considered.

Lori Collins addressed a prior meeting question on who within the Agency of Human Services (AHS) is covering ADA compliance. For now, Patrick Flood, the Deputy Secretary for AHS, is the ADA compliance officer. Jackie Majoros and Trinkia Kerr requested the MAB receive something in writing that summarizes the role of the ADA compliance officer and/or the ADA compliance process.

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Next, the MAB discussed the status of ongoing MAB request topics. Lori Collins noted that the Dual Eligible initiative/study is still in the planning phase and there is still no federal authority to move forward. Updates on Chronic Care Initiatives and the Blueprint Program should be scheduled in the next few months. The MAB still wants information on PMPM “net of premiums” for Dr. Dynasaur and Pharmacy programs – how much is it actually costing the state?

DAIL Update on Challenges for Change – Brendan Hogan

Brendan Hogan, Acting Commissioner of DAIL, addressed his Department’s work on current Challenges for Change initiatives. Brendan provided a handout from the DAIL website. Broadly speaking, there are three areas of focus; they include creative workforce solutions, developmental service changes and long term care initiatives.

The Division of Disability and Aging Services (DDAS) updates the website bi-weekly on their Challenges for Change initiatives. These changes would: 1) increase consumer choice and capacity for home-based services, 2) develop an adult family foster care program, 3) improve the timeliness of Choices for Care service availability, 4) create incentives for community-based care, 5) better serve Vermonters with co-occurring mental health and other disability/medical needs, 6) reduce the SFY ’11 appropriation for developmental services by 1%, 7) develop new residential options for individuals with developmental disabilities, 8) analyze new service models for clients with developmental whose services are high cost 9) reduce cost of serving individuals with developmental disabilities who pose risk to public safety 10) provide a direct allocation reduction summary and, 11) focus on and meet legislative mandates applicable to DDAS.

Brendan expanded on each of the three broad areas of focus and encouraged any one who has questions or feedback for DAIL to please contact Lanora Freedom by E-mail: lanora.freedom@ahs.state.vt.us or at 802-241-2648.

Eligibility/Modernization/Call Center Update – Les Birnbaum

Les Birnbaum, the Operations Director at Economic Services Division, DCF, provided an update on Eligibility/Modernization efforts and case processing. In general, these are challenging times – caseloads are increasing and staff is working very hard (including overtime) to keep up with the eligibility work. At the same time, modernization efforts continue and the state is very close to improving/streamlining the workflow system. The new method will allow ESD to operate a statewide caseload system and allow workers to specialize in their benefit assistance, i.e. there would specialists for health care, financial services, etc.

Les provided handouts tracking: 1) Benefits Eligibility Processing data and 2) Health Care Caseload Growth from July, 2008 through September, 2010. The board expressed concern that, because of recent processing delays, some beneficiaries could be dropped from benefit coverage. Les will look into this matter and it will be discussed in more

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detail during the MAB Consumer Subcommittee Meeting immediately following this meeting. A link with ESD contact numbers/information will be provided to the MAB; these individuals can assist immediately with corrective actions for beneficiaries experiencing problems.

New Business – MAB Membership

Sheila Reed asked DVHA and the MAB to discuss Vermont's decision not to take full advantage of the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at the next meeting.

MAB Request Topics/Data

- Health Care Reform Update
- Challenges for Change Impacting Medicaid (IFS)
- Update on Dual Eligible Study
- Update on Bridges Program
- Evaluation of Chronic Care Initiatives
- MMIS Update
- Information on PMPM net of premiums, particularly for Dr. Dynasaur and Pharmacy programs
- Blueprint Program & Data Update/Evaluation – Fall
- ADA Compliance Process for AHS
- Modernization/Eligibility
- Policy Review – Limitations on OT/PT for Chronic Conditions (seek legislative changes)
- Recruiting New Consumer Members for MAB
- Vermont's CHIP Participation

Next Meeting

November 18, 2010

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: Department of Vermont Health Access, Williston, VT