
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2010

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Anita Hoy (COVE), Michelle Scanlon (BSPCA), Sharon Henault (Member), Lisa Maynes (Member) and Dale Hackett (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Jennifer Fredette (MAXIMUS), Ron Ferrara (VPA/VCA).

Staff: Lori Collins (OVHA), Robert Larkin (OVHA), Stacey Baker (OVHA), Lorraine Siciliano (OVHA) and Deb Stempel (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- January 28, 2010 Meeting Minutes
- DAIL SFY '11 Budget Testimony (2-10)
- DCF SFY '11 Budget Highlights (2-25-10)

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The January 28, 2010 meeting minutes will be resubmitted in March for approval; a required quorum was not present.

DAIL Budget Update – Joan Senecal

Joan Senecal, the Commissioner of the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), provided the board with a copy of her testimony for the SFY2011 budget.

Commissioner Senecal noted that a spreadsheet showing the "ups and downs" in the DAIL, Choices for Care and Children's Personal Care Services budgets was also available from DAIL upon request.

DAIL's SFY '10 budget was just over \$200 million dollars (excluding Children's Personal Care and Choices for Care which appear in the OVHA appropriation). If the Governor's Recommended Budget passes, the SFY '11 budget beginning July 1, 2010 will be roughly \$209 million (plus CfC and CPCS). DAIL has lost a total of 55 positions through the various position reduction exercises; the Commissioner reminded the board that even before the loss of these positions, the department's staff was having difficulty keeping up with the workload.

Commissioner Senecal addressed DAIL's Budget Testimony document line-by-line and explained in detail the various increases and decreases projected throughout the department's four separate divisions. Many MAB board members voiced their concern over the numerous cuts to prevention, respite, direct support and crisis avoidance

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programs. Members felt the cuts would increase overall spending in the long run. Concerns were expressed that many consumers would be impacted by multiple cuts, and that the state was retreating from supporting independence and creating a greater need for institutional levels of service. Consumer Sharon Henault also expressed her concern on how impacted populations would be affected and how this would be measured.

DCF Budget Update – Steve Dale

Department for Children and Families (DCF) Commissioner Steve Dale briefed his department's SFY '11 budget submission to the MAB, providing a five page handout of DCF's budget highlights. The overall budget includes; 1) an increase in General Funds of \$8,796,766, 2) an increase in State Funds of \$901,260, 3) a decrease in Global Commitment and Catamount funding of \$1,061,705, 4) an increase in Federal Funds of \$6,221,005 and 5) a loss of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds of \$12,162,851. This would amount to a Gross Spending Authority Increase of \$2,694,475. There also will be an anticipated 3% decrease in staff salaries, which will come through Challenges for Change.

A summary of major increases within the budget include: 1) new positions for QC/Fraud, \$350,390, 2) IT contract increases, \$778,000, 3) Child Care Financial Assistance, \$555,000, 4) Reach Up (RU) caseload and support service, \$3,054,560, 5) Food Stamp Cash Out minus Federal Funds/Gross, \$3,579,045, 6) TCM Replacement from General Fund, \$1,010,625, 7) AABD caseload and replacement of COLA at \$1,032,300, and 8) an increase in Adoption Subsidies for 42 children of \$300,000. All of the above mentioned amounts are reflected as gross dollars.

Steve also summarized major reduction items within DCF for SFY '11. They include the following: 1) a \$1,698,952 decrease attributed to Annualized Modernization Position reductions, 2) a decrease of \$4,084,387 due to a loss of one time ARRA funds, 3) a decrease of \$2,053,535 due to a 3% reduction in grants and contracts, 4) a decrease of \$647,259 regarding improved QC/Fraud Enforcement (additional savings through OVHA), 5) a decrease of \$2,997,676 in RU policy changes, 6) a decrease of \$300,000 from both the reduction of RU Support services and the elimination of PSE Case Management, 7) a decrease of \$135,300 from the elimination of state support for IDAs, 8) a decrease of \$343,863 due to an increase in Vacancy Savings, 9) a decrease of \$150,000 by capping burial fees, 10) a decrease of \$200,000 from Modernization of Child Care Eligibility, and 11) a decrease of \$74,000 by allowing Magistrates to Establish Parentage.

MAB board members expressed concerns about unintended consequences and unidentified cost shifts to other programs in other departments.

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MAB Membership – Next Steps

To allow for adequate discussion time, The March 25th meeting agenda will be dedicated principally to budget briefings by the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

MAB Request Topics/Data

- VDH and DMH Budget Updates
- Health Care Reform Update
- TIGER Team Update
- 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

Next Meeting

March 25, 2010

Time: 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier, VT