
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2009

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Peter Taylor (VSDS), Anita Hoy (COVE), Sharon Henault (Member), Nicole Sorrell (VCIL), Michelle Scanlon (BSPCA), Sarah Littlefeather (Member), Sheila Reed (VVC), Dale Hackett (Member), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Trinkia Kerr (HCO), Julie Tessler (VCDMH) and Lisa Maynes (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Brendan Hogan (DAIL), Jackie Levine (DCF), Cherie Bergeron (EDS), Jennifer Fredette (MAXIMUS) and Terry Lee (Gilead Sciences).

Staff: Susan Besio (OVHA), Lori Collins (OVHA), Clark Eaton (OVHA), Robert Larkin (OVHA), Kim Harnois (OVHA), and Stacey Baker (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- March 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- AHS Children's Integrated Services Update and Flow Chart (4/21/09)

CONVENE

Peter Taylor chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The March 26, 2009 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

Children's Integrated Services – Patrick Flood/Suzanne Santarcangelo

Patrick Flood, Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Human Services (AHS) introduced Suzanne Santarcangelo, Director, AHS Healthcare Operations, Compliance & Improvement, who provided a brief background/overview of the Children's Integrated Services (CIS) initiatives. About a year ago, former AHS Secretary LaWare charged a group with the responsibility of bringing together Children's Integrated Services to cover children from 0-22 years of age. Three years ago, the Department for Children and Families (DCF) began implementing age 0-6 Early Childhood Programming; at about the same time, AHS and Legal Aid began discussions on Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT). Good ideas were also shared from the Personal Care Pilot Project and care coordination for individuals in the 0-22 age range.

After reviewing this work, the legislature earmarked \$2 million in the Medicaid Budget for the 0-22 age group to further the development of CIS. Some systemic barriers impacting billing and reimbursement codes have been overcome. Further, \$800,000 was set aside for the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) Bridge's Program. Additional money was earmarked to satisfy changes regarding Speech Language Pathologist enrollment and approximately \$700,000 was also set aside for the development of previously absent therapies.

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Since the inception of the 0-22 age CIS initiative, leadership roles have changed and Ms. Santarcangelo and Deputy Secretary Flood are now at the forefront of the services' continued development. In addition to the work being done within AHS, Ms. Santarcangelo recommended finding the best possible way to get timely feedback from the state's advisory boards.

In closing, Patrick Flood stated that he was pleased with the steps taken thus far to integrate children's services. For the future, there will be no new initiative, policy change or assessment regarding children that will move forward without first being fully considered within the parameters of the current CIS program. The Medicaid Advisory Board (MAB) will be briefed again on the program in the fall of 2009.

OVHA Update – Susan Besio

Susan Besio, Director of the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), provided an update regarding the State Fiscal Year (SFY) '10 budget. At the current time, all OVHA proposals from the Governor's Recommend were excluded by the legislature, except for a 90 day reimbursement fee for maintenance drugs. For VPHARM and VHAP, a pharmacy co-pay has been included (\$1 for prescriptions up to \$29.99 and \$2 for ones of \$30.00 or more). These co-pay adjustments will produce an estimated \$720,000 in savings between the two programs. If necessary, the OVHA will address pharmacy programs in more detail at the May MAB meeting. The State will also follow Rhode Island's lead and take steps to recover manufacturers' rebates totaling more than a million dollars.

Board member Trinkia Kerr raised concern over the planned switch to certain generic drugs. OVHA's Stacey Baker suggested that there is an option through Maximus (member services) for physicians to request the override of certain prescriptions due to potentially dangerous side effects. Board member Dale Hackett also provided examples of what can happen to an individual suddenly placed on generic prescriptions. A consumer/small work group may need to be convened to discuss pharmacy/prescription drug issues further.

For the SFY '10 budget, there is also legislative discussion of a 2% reduction in provider rates as opposed to the 4% reduction proposed initially. Other noteworthy items include: 1) the chiropractic program was reinstated for \$1 million dollars, 2) a 5.2% hospital rate increase is proposed and 3) a \$1.8 million increase for Choices for Care is on the table.

Discussions also continue on requesting extensions for Vermont's Global Commitment and Long Term Care Waivers, which are due for renewal in October, 2010.

Discussion/Planning for a Meeting on Notices and Changes- MAB

Board member Sharon Henault discussed the need for better and earlier notification pertaining to notices or changes regarding premium payments. A work group will be

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formed and scheduled to meet following the May 28, 2009 MAB meeting in Williston to address these concerns. Kay Van Woert, Trinkia Kerr, Sharon Henault and other consumer members will participate; any other interested board members are also welcome to attend. It was suggested that representatives from Maximus (member services) and Economic Services Division (ESD) be present at this workgroup meeting. The board suggested that Chairperson Kay Van Woert organize and chair the group.

MAB Request Topics

- Budget Update
- Report on status/use of OVHA provider reimbursement rate history study
- Impact on Global Commitment investment vs. use of state funds to drawdown of funds from the federal Maternal and Child Health block grant
- Consumer/work group meeting to cover premium notices and timing issues – meeting will follow the May 28 regular MAB meeting

Next Meeting

May 28, 2009

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: Williston, VT