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**Medicaid Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
May 27, 2010

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**PRESENT**

**Board:** Christina Colombe (Member), Trinkia Kerr (HCO), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Paul Harrington (VMS), Michael Sirotkin (COVE), Dale Hackett (Member), Sharon Henault (Member), Lisa Maynes (Member), Laura Pelosi (VCHA), Peter Taylor (VSDS), Julie Tessler (VCDMH) and (Kristi Kistler (DHMC).

**Other Interested Parties:** Carol Devlin (Alt. Member), Jennifer Fredette (MAXIMUS), Sonia Tagliento (MAXIMUS), Cherie Bergeron (HP), Barbara Beaty (HP), Terry Lee (Gilead Sciences) and Perry Josey (MMS) .

**Staff:** Susan Besio (OVHA), Lori Collins (OVHA), Michael Farber (OVHA), Stephanie Beck (OVHA), Bill Clark (OVHA), Keri Andersen (OVHA), Russell Frank (OVHA), Clark Eaton (OVHA), Robert Larkin (OVHA), Judith Jamieson (OVHA), Stacey Baker (OVHA) and Kevin Veller (OVHA).

**HANDOUTS**

- Agenda
- April 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes
- Draft SFY '11 Rule Changes
- Draft OVHA Newsletter (June '10)

**CONVENE**

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The April 22, 2010 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. The April minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

**Director's Update – Susan Besio**

The Director of the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), Susan Besio, opened the discussion by addressing the progress of the SFY '11 budget. Susan provided an overview of items that have been approved by the legislature. Those items included: 1) funding for the MMIS Replacement System with a dollar amount of nearly \$1 million (90/10 match), 2) a CMS approved multi-payer database, and 3) the conversion of OVHA to the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA). This last action elevates the current office's status to that of a department, which will also include the housing and responsibilities of Vermont's Blueprint for Health. The change-over is slated to take place on July 1, 2010.

Susan also discussed progress on the S88 bill, yet to be signed into law. If the bill is signed into law, a new Payment Reform Director position will be designated and be responsible for regional payment procedures, value-based purchasing and multi-year strategies for payment reform.

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Also, beginning July 1, 2010, PT/OT/ST services will be limited to 30 visits per year. Excluded from these limitations will be home health therapy, TBI cases, spinal related injuries, burns, strokes and amputations. Sharon Henault expressed her concern (as she had when the PT/OT/SP limitations were first proposed) why conditions like CP were not included among exclusions, adding that cerebral palsy is basically TBI before birth. Prior authorization also will be needed for CTPET and CAT scans. Beneficiaries will be limited to 12 emergency service visits per year. Data indicates that very few individuals surpass 12 visits within a year's period. A limit of 8 drug tests/screens per month will also be enforced. The legislature also agreed to the readjustment of Average Wholesale Pricing concerning pharmaceuticals.

The OVHA has filled a new Quality Control Chief position for Medicaid Transportation. Control measure efforts should produce significant annual savings within the non-emergency transportation program. A proposal (with estimated cost savings) was made to add three new positions to the OVHA's Program Integrity Unit; the legislature increased the number of positions to six and then doubled the projected cost savings. The OVHA has already hired two of the six positions authorized.

The Catamount deductible will increase from the current \$250 to \$500. The pharmacy co-pay will also be increased for non-generic drugs. Susan also noted there is \$20 million that is to be used for hospital rate increases for inpatient care. If the ARRA is extended, an additional \$2.8 million could be secured for a one time outpatient hospital rate increase. Susan closed by noting that she hoped to have a Blueprint for Health update for the board sometime in early fall and that there is currently PR work underway to spread the word about the differences that exist between Medicaid and Medicare benefits.

**SFY '11 (Big Bill) Draft Rule Changes – Keri Andersen**

Keri Andersen, Health Programs Administrator for OVHA, addressed the board regarding draft rule changes. The OVHA Director, Susan Besio had already addressed many of the changes in her update earlier in the meeting. Ms. Andersen provided draft versions of the rule changes as well as a draft newsletter that also summarized the changes that will become effective on July 1, 2010. PT/OT/ST visits, urine drug tests and radiology services all deal with VHAP beneficiaries and anyone enrolled in Medicaid that is 21 years of age or older.

The timelines for these changes will be posted to the OVHA's website on May 28, 2010, and a notice will also be published in the Burlington Free Press on May 30, 2010. The OVHA will be accepting written comments regarding these draft rules through June 7, 2010. These rules will not be officially filed until the end of June. OVHA is still waiting to hear from CMS about the proposed limits to the number of ER visits per year. Ms. Andersen stressed that any information posted to the OVHA website is current.

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Members of the board expressed their concerns regarding another rule change that would focus on the possible recoupment of funds, if entitled, that deals with \$250 rebate checks for certain donut-hole beneficiaries. Many found the rule to be a bit loose in definition and are worried about beneficiaries not fully understanding the process. Beneficiaries will be notified via the newsletter that if they do receive one of these checks, they should call MAXIMUS to discuss their situation.

**Challenges for Change – Rob Hofmann**

The Secretary of the Agency of Human Services (AHS), Rob Hofmann, spoke to the board about the many issues and initiatives involved in the agency's implementation plan for Challenges for Change. Mr. Hofmann pointed out that the State is currently facing a \$10 million General Fund shortfall for the Challenges for Change requirement for SFY '11. He stressed that job number one is to maintain focus on our critical services such as providing care at the Vermont State Hospital, providing security in our prisons and protecting vulnerable children and adults. Our next priority is to get moving on these challenges while continuing to come up with other cost saving measures. On the whole, the challenges are a good thing -- they build upon the Blueprint for Health, housing and housing supports, and further efforts to develop Integrated Family Services.

Secretary Hofmann also stressed the need to approach all programs and policy from a larger holistic viewpoint while trying to find the lowest level of intervention possible. There also needs to be an increase in accountability, not only within the state, but from its partners as well. The agency is looking for a path to greater independence for its clients and is searching for funds to improve the process of its systems. Mr. Hofmann also noted the necessity to improve on IT functions as a whole.

Secretary Hofmann discussed some of the key initiatives that the agency would like to see move forward. These initiatives include: 1) better continuous outcomes regarding Integrated Family Services, 2) three pilot programs surrounding early childhood development through the Child Development Division, 3) repurposing the Woodside site, 4) instituting specialized case management targeted at individuals in the Reach-Up program to achieve a better understanding on how to get out of poverty by using positive reinforcement tools and goals, and 5) further enhancing Child Support Collections.

Sharon Henault requested that any Challenges proposals be run, earlier rather than later, past an ADA Compliance Officer.

**MAB Membership – Next Steps**

For the June 24, 2010 meeting, the MAB requests an update on Eligibility/Modernization from the Department of Children and Families and the Economic Services Division.

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**MAB Request Topics/Data**

- 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
- Blueprint Program & Data Update/Evaluation –Early Fall
- Medicare/Medicaid interface – Info & Outreach

**Next Meeting**

**June 24, 2010**

**Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

**Location: Office of Vermont Health Access, Williston, VT**