
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2009

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Paul Harrington (VMS), Sarah Littlefeather (Member), Garry Schaedel (VDH), Jackie Majoros (VLA), Peter Taylor, Tim Palmer (VFN), Anita Hoy (COVE), Trinkia Kerr (HCO), Julie Tessler (VCDMH), Laura Pelosi (VHCA), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA) and Michelle Scanlon (BSPCA).

Other Interested Parties: Brendan Hogan (DAIL), Jackie Levine (DCF), Adele Edelman (ESD), Betty Parent (EDS) and Jennifer Fredette (MAXIMUS).

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

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- May 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Implementation Schedule for Changes in SFY '10
- New Legislative Studies
- MCO Investment Approval Process (12/08)
- MCO Investment Expenditures
- SFY '10 MAB Meeting Dates

CONVENE

Peter Taylor chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The May 28, 2009 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

OVHA Director's 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. Susan made special note of co-pay changes that will go into effect for the VHAP and VPharm programs starting July 15, 2009. Pharmacies, providers and beneficiaries will be advised on the new co-pay amounts. Most providers will also see a 2% decrease in their published reimbursement rates. Paul Harrington asked if the OVHA could eventually adjust all fee schedules to reflect the 2% decrease. The OVHA will explore the feasibility (and timing) of changing all fee schedules that are affected by the 2% decrease. The legislature also passed a 90 day prescription plan that will be applicable to certain maintenance drugs. Chiropractic services were also reinstated, but with limited coverage (manipulation of the spine).

Susan also discussed new legislative study initiatives that came out of the recent session. The studies include Palliative Care, with Betsy Forrest of OVHA as the lead – examining a possible amendment to the Global Commitment waiver allowing concurrent palliative

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and curative care for Medicaid and SCHIP eligible children with life-limiting illnesses. Other studies involve health care utilization, accountable care organizations (ACO's), corrections health and the "smart card" initiative. Paul Harrington will provide OVHA with information on the Accountable Care Promotion Act for distribution to the MAB; the MAB would like an update on ACO's at their September meeting.

The OVHA plans on announcing the selection of a new Medical Director in the very near future. In addition, the OVHA will be reorganizing soon and this will probably be ready to be briefed to the MAB in September.

Global Commitment Investments – Suzanne Santarcangelo

Suzanne Santarcangelo, Director of AHS Health Care Operations, Compliance and Improvement, gave an overview of what Global Commitment Investment means to the State of Vermont as part of the Global Commitment Medicaid 1115 waiver demonstration.

Operating as a public Managed Care Organization (MCO), the terms and conditions of the CMS agreement allow the state to use any MCO savings in four broad categories to help promote positive health outcomes and maintain or increase access to health care options not typically covered in the Medicaid state plan (for example, immunizations, wellness efforts, etc.). These investments can be used to support the following: 1) reduce the rate of uninsured and/or underinsured in the state, 2) increase the access of quality health care to the uninsured, underinsured and Medicaid beneficiaries in the state, 3) provide public health approaches to improve the health outcomes and the quality of life for Medicaid-eligible individuals in Vermont and 4) encourage the formation and maintenance of public-private partnerships in health care. Investment funding was prospectively allocated at the beginning of the waiver by the Legislature in an effort to maintain critical state-only services and as a deficit reduction strategy in the Medicaid program. Investments have some variation year-to-year, but most have been in place since the inception of the waiver. Handouts were provided to show examples of MCO investments and to further describe the process for proposing, reviewing and selecting investments.

MAB members expressed further interest on this topic and suggested a follow-on meeting be held for interested members. A smaller group meeting with Suzanne, focused on MCO investments, will be scheduled over the summer.

Small Work Group Discussion – MAB Members

The MAB discussed the possibility of small work group meetings over the summer. The board agreed that summer activity would be limited to a follow-up meeting addressing Global Commitment and MCO investments.

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VPHARM Therapeutic Substitution – Ann Rugg

Ann Rugg, Deputy Director for the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), briefed the MAB in May, 2009 on the proposed VPHARM Therapeutic Substitution Equivalency Pilot Program. She readdressed the topic and answered additional questions for board members. The pilot program will focus mainly on three generic drugs that can cover the need for Statin and Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) medication within the VPharm program. Ms. Rugg noted that a mailing will be going out updating prescribers on any and all changes that will occur due to this program.

MAB Request Topics

- Budget Update
- Global Commitment Investment meeting in August
- Federal Health Care Reform briefing for September meeting
- Trend data from DAIL (Brendan Hogan)
- ESD briefing on Modernization Project for September meeting

Next Meeting

September 24, 2009

Time:10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: Williston, VT