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**Medicaid Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
July 28, 2011

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**PRESENT**

**Board:** Christina Colombe (Member), Anita Hoy (COVE), Hilde Hyde (Member), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Danielle Hibbard (BSPCA), Wendy Davis (VDH), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Lisa Maynes (Member), Julie Tessler (VCDMHS), Sarah Launderville (VCIL), Madeleine Mongan (VMS), Sharon Henault (Member), Michael Sirotkin (COVE), Peter Taylor (VSDS), Jackie Majoros (LTCO) and Dale Hackett (Member).

**Other Interested Parties:** Sonia Tagliento (MAXIMUS), Alexis Perkins (MAXIMUS), Cherie Bergeron (HP), Barbara Beaty (HP), Jill Guerin (KSE Partners), Lucie Garand (DRM), Anthony Otis (Chiro, Pharm and Delta Dental) and Anne Donahue (Counterpoint).

**Staff:** Lori Collins (DVHA), Clark Eaton (DVHA) and Stacey Baker (DVHA).

**HANDOUTS**

- Agenda
- June 23, 2011 Meeting Minutes
- Press Release (7/19/11): New DVHA Commissioner
- State of Vermont Strategic Planning Draft (V3 6/22/11)
- Overview of H.202: The Vermont Health Reform Bill of 2011
- Legislative Language re the Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee
- Overview of Basic Health Program (3/31/11)

**CONVENE**

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The June 23, 2011 meeting minutes were submitted for approval and were approved unanimously.

**Interim Commissioner's Update – Lori Collins**

The Interim Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), Lori Collins, asked the Board to review the Governor's press release (handout) announcing the appointment of Mark Larson as the new Commissioner of DVHA. Mark will officially begin his new role on August 17, 2011 and everyone is looking forward to his arrival. He has a tremendous amount of experience and will play an integral role in DVHA's efforts to assist in the development and introduction of Health Care Reform for Vermont.

Lori also circulated and introduced a draft of the Governor's new Strategic Plan, which includes a vision, values and seven priorities. There has been some interface with the Administration's extended cabinet and also with the Agency of Human Services on the seven priorities. DVHA is currently in the process of developing its own formal strategic plan, which will eventually complement and roll into the Governor's seven priorities. DVHA wants to have a draft of its own strategic plan by early September; it will be forwarded to the MAB for input/comment.

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Sharon Henault expressed a desire to have a consumer member participate directly with the Governor's strategic planning committee, so that there is a consumer's voice present from the beginning. Sharon made a motion that the MAB recommend that a consumer member be added to the Governor's strategic planning committee. Peter Taylor commented that the very purpose of the MAB as a whole is to provide these kinds of inputs to things like the state's strategic plan. Kay Van Woert was concerned about the timing of the recommendation and felt the MAB should work with the new Commissioner on the broader principles and need for consumer participation at every level. Madeleine Mongan commented that provider concerns (such as inadequate reimbursement rates) also need to be conveyed.

The MAB agreed that Kay Van Woert will pull together and forward (both to the state and MAB members) a draft of the policy and process principles the MAB has captured in the past. This will immediately help inform the strategic planning process and serve as an introduction for Mark Larson. The MAB will follow up as a whole with Mark Larson once he comes on as Commissioner. Sharon Henault withdrew her motion.

**MAB Discussion Topics – MAB Membership**

Kay Van Woert provided a summary of the Medicaid Access Issue Workgroup meeting held following the formal MAB meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The group identified a list of concerns that need to be addressed in terms of both policy and process: 1) EPSDT, 2) Dual Eligibles, 3) DME/Supplies, 4) DUR/Rx and 5) Transportation. Each area needs further exploration with Bill Clark at DVHA, the Health Care Ombudsman and MAB members. There was general board agreement that these were appropriate issues to take on.

Jackie Majoros commented that the Dual Eligibles issue has now been taken on as a significant project by DVHA. Julie Tessler encouraged consumers to participate in the state Dual Eligible workgroup; DVHA will send out a link on the Dual Eligible information/effort. The MAB agreed that members should connect through that existing process at this point rather than continuing the separate MAB work group on dual eligibles.

Peter Taylor asked if there were formalized internal processes at DVHA for consumer/provider feedback and data analysis for the purpose of systems improvement. Trinkia Kerr outlined what the Health Care Ombudsman Office does and also discussed the quarterly and annual data reports that her office provides to DVHA and BISHCA. These quarterly data reports will be provided to the MAB. The board will also request that Bill Clark, DVHA's Director of Provider & Member Relations, be scheduled to update the MAB at the August meeting on DVHA's internal system process for data collection.

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The MAB formally recommended that two new work groups be formed to review: 1) DVHA “gate keeping” and process in areas such as DME, Rx, and transportation that might be impeding access to benefits and 2) an EPSDT review group, looking at both policies and processes that might be impeding access to benefits (for example, coordination of benefit policies and/or limitations on intensity and duration of treatment). Trinka Kerr agreed to pull together the first group and Wendy Davis agreed to coordinate the EPSDT group. The first group tentatively planned to meet in August after the regular MAB meeting, with the second group possibly starting in September.

**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Cmte. Discussion – MAB Membership**

Kay Van Woert summarized Robin Lunge’s June briefing to the MAB and opened the floor to discussion on any follow-on questions concerning the creation of the expanded Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee. Hopefully, the new five-person Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) and the new DVHA Commissioner will be open to process suggestions as we move forward. Wendy Davis stressed the importance of taking advantage of the window of opportunity from October, 2011 - July, 2012 to get MAB workgroup inputs to the GMCB and to the new Advisory Committee.

Board members felt it was important to match the current board composition with the composition of the new committee and make any necessary recommendations. Peter Taylor indicated that the provider group membership is reduced the most in the new configuration. Robin Lunge will return to update the MAB at their September meeting and this and other concerns can be addressed at that time.

**Public Comment Period**

Anne Donahue (Counterpoint) provided input on the importance of positively connecting the disability perspective as we move forward with health care reform in Vermont. Also, consumers need to be involved at the very beginning of policy and process development; it is not enough just to have input at some point along the way. There is much happening right now on health care reform and consumers need to be involved and have their voices heard. Kay Van Woert indicated the MAB would recirculate its latest policy letter and look to present a more formal, direct message in the near term.

**MAB Requested Data/Information**

- PMPM net of premiums for Dr. Dynasaur and Pharmacy
- ADA Compliance process for AHS
- Vermont's CHIP participation
- Evaluation of cost of 12 month continuous eligibility for children
- Data on churn (get from Steve Kappel?)

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**Ongoing Areas of Interest --Updates from DVHA as Timing is Appropriate**

- Loss of PCP/PCP continuity following break in benefit-DVHA to report back
- Dual Eligibles Initiative
- Chronic Care Initiative/Blueprint
- Bridges Program
- MMIS Limitations on OT/PT
- Medicaid Home Health Initiative
- Autism Insurance
- Integrated Family Services
- Voc Rehab--Sept or October
- Clarification to advocates on how to resolve Medicaid glitches beyond HCO

**Areas for MAB Near-Term Discussion/Work**

- Health Care Reform (and how to connect disability perspective)
- Exchange Board and MAB role
- Issues with current public programs (e.g. EPSDT, Dual Eligibles, DUR/Rx, Transportation, Supplies/DME)
- Separate workgroups on EPSDT and Process Improvements

**Next Meeting**

**August 25, 2011**

**Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

**Location: DVHA, Williston, VT**