

**Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2011**

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Melissa Miller (BSPCA-Alternate), Nathaniel Waite (VDH), Laura Pelosi (VHCA), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Madeleine Mongan (VMS), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Elizabeth Cote (VSIDS), Lisa Maynes (Member), Jackie Majoros (SLTC), Sheila Reed (VVC), Michael Sirotkin (COVE), Corey Armstrong (DHMC) and Dale Hackett (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Sonia Tagliento (MAXIMUS), Alexis Perkins (MAXIMUS), Susan Bauer (MAXIMUS), Barbara Beaty (HP), Heather Shouldice (Wm Shouldice & Assoc. LLC) and Betty Morse (VFN).

Staff: Lori Collins (DVHA), Lindsey Tucker (DVHA), Dr. Michael Farber (DVHA), Bill Clark (DVHA), Kevin Veller (DVHA), Sue Mason (DVHA) and Clark Eaton (DVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- November 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes
- DVHA SFY '12 Budget Adjustment Document
- DVHA Memo: Cerebral Palsy Exemption Consideration (12/9/11)
- AHS Bull. #11-19, Proposed Rule Change re: Rehab Therapy Services (12/15/11)
- DVHA Draft Strategic Plan (12/14/11)
- Clinical Utilization Review Board (CURB) Description/Information
- Integration of Medicaid and the Health Benefit Exchange

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The November 17, 2011 meeting minutes were submitted for approval and were approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Report – Mark Larson

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) Commissioner, Mark Larson, introduced Lindsey Tucker, DVHA's new Deputy Commissioner for the Health Benefits Exchange. Lindsey will manage DVHA's new grant as part of the development and implementation of the Health Benefits Exchange. As part of Vermont's Act 48, she will also take the lead in standing up the state's new Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee for July, 2012.

Mark distributed a handout on DVHA's SFY '12 Budget Adjustment and provided a brief overview of the major adjustments: 1) there is a substantial forecast revision stemming from enrollment and utilization that equates to an approximate \$40 million reduction, and 2) there is a proposed staffing increase at DVHA that would add 17 new positions within the Department. This latter proposal, at an estimated SFY '12 cost of about \$408,000, would eventually produce significant overall savings from operating the

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Medicaid system more efficiently, and managing care better and more cost effectively. Although there is nothing to report yet on the SFY '13 budget, if DVHA wants to realize the most savings for SFY '13, the Department will need to have new positions in place by the 4th quarter of SFY '12. MAB members stressed that DVHA may need to focus on improving access for substance abuse treatment and for beneficiaries across the board. Mark noted that an improved core capability and expanded data support function at DVHA would help specifically identify areas for improvement and the best means to improve access.

Mark highlighted the Green Mountain Care Board's current effort to establish its own Advisory Committee. MAB members are encouraged to check into this opportunity; letters of interest are due very soon this month. Clark Eaton will send this information out to MAB members today. Some MAB members are already aware of this initiative from other distribution sources.

Commissioner Larson informed the MAB that the recent Emergency Rule on OT/PT/ST visits had failed to clear LCAR and will be resubmitted to be acted on under normal rule change procedures. Greg Needle, DVHA Policy Administrator, noted that LCAR had approved measures for DVHA to move forward normally on this rule change. DVHA Medical Director, Dr. Michael Farber, described the Department's efforts in this arena, stressing that the overriding goal of the CURB and DVHA is to improve quality of care and not simply to save money. Dr. Farber also introduced a CURB/DVHA initiative to require prior authorizations for beneficiaries seeking out-of-state, outpatient elective services. This initiative will flow through the normal rulemaking process. Kay Van Woert commented that the CURB and general rulemaking processes may not adequately connect to providers who are more expert in best practice in specific specialty areas (e.g. developmental pediatricians in the case of the OT/PT/ST proposed rule) and Dr. Farber agreed that it was important and a goal of DVHA to do so.

Kay Van Woert led discussion on the recent DVHA memo responding to a need to consider a cerebral palsy exemption on limiting outpatient therapy visits (currently 30). DVHA's data indicates that the current benefit appears to be sufficient. There is still some concern from members that this could be detrimental to some beneficiaries in certain circumstances. Lori Collins, Deputy Commissioner of DVHA, will take this concern back for further review and report back to the MAB.

The most updated version (12/14/11) of DVHA's Draft Strategic Plan was distributed to the MAB for further review and input; Lori Collins asked that any initial comments or inputs be made by the end of the year. Ongoing inputs are always encouraged.

Sheila Reed introduced two initiatives that her organization (Voices for Vermont Children) will be introducing in the legislature. She will be requesting near-term MAB support for: 1) 12 months continuous eligibility and 2) comprehensive dental benefits for

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pregnant women on Dr Dynasaur. Kay Van Woert pointed out that the MAB had already voted to support the 12 month continuous eligibility proposal. Sheila will send out information to the MAB prior to the next meeting.

Integration of Medicaid and the Exchange – Robin Lunge

Robin Lunge, Vermont’s Director of Health Care Reform, continued to provide the MAB with an overview of Health Care Reform, stemming from the broad goals outlined in Act 48. For this meeting, Robin continued to reference her October, 2011 handout and focused on outlining and reviewing the Pros and Cons of the four Medicaid and Exchange Health Coverage Options under consideration for 2014:

1. The Basic Health Plan
2. The Exchange with Federal Subsidies
3. The Exchange with Federal and State Subsidies
4. The State Medicaid Expansion Option

Robin referenced her power point Health Coverage Options comparison chart and conducted a white board exercise with MAB members, collecting Pros and Cons from the group on each of the four options. There was some initial, general support from the MAB for Option 3 or a variation of Option 3 that would provide for federal/state subsidies with a state wrap-around and allow providers to be reimbursed at a more adequate rate.

Kay Van Woert suggested that it might be more useful to planners to poll the MAB on the priority values of the plusses and minuses of each plan, rather than “vote” for a plan per se. She listed a few, and the board went on to develop a preliminary list of values that should be considered moving forward. Examples included: affordability for consumers, low administrative costs, administrative simplification, low churn, maximum use of federal dollars, comprehensive coverage, support for providers and providing a foundation for a single payer system. Kay will take an initial cut at combining and/or rewording the value categories.

From this list, DVHA and Robin will develop a straw poll that can go out to MAB members by e-mail in early January. MAB members can then respond by either ranking or highlighting their individual preferences. The legislature also will begin to weigh in overall by mid January. Again, MAB members are encouraged to provide feedback on all areas involving the development of future Vermont Health Benefits Programs and Health Coverage Options for Medicaid and the Exchange for 2014. Robin Lunge will try to be available to brief the MAB again at their January 26th meeting in Montpelier.

Priority Areas of Interest for MAB Near-Term Discussion and Work

- Vermont Health Care Reform/Exchange Board/MAB role (and how to connect disability perspective)
- DVHA Strategic Plan

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- Issues with current public programs:
 - o EPSDT (MAB workgroup)
 - o Dual Eligibles
 - o DUR/Rx
 - o Transportation
 - o Supplies/DME)
 - o Limitations on adult OT PT

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

- Federal Health Care Reform Updates
- Chronic Care Initiative/Blueprint
- Update on Provider Tax Strategy and RFP
- Workgroup on Process Improvements (date for follow-on?)
- Loss of PCP/PCP continuity following break in benefit-DVHA to report back
- Dual Eligible Initiative
- Voc Rehab
- Integrated Family Services
- Bridge Program
- Autism Insurance
- Medicaid Home Health Initiative
- MMIS

MAB Requested Data/Information

- ADA Compliance process for AHS
- Evaluation of cost of 12 month continuous eligibility for children

Next Meetings

January 26, 2012

Time: 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Site: Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT

February 23, 2012

Time: 9:30 – 12:00PM

Site: Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT
