
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2009

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Madeleine Mongan (VMS), Julie Tessler (VCDMH), Sarah Littlefeather (Member), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Anita Hoy (COVE), Sheila Reed (VVC), Laura Pelosi (VHCA), Michelle Scanlon (BSPCA), Garry Schaedel (VDH), Lisa Maynes (Member) and Dale Hackett (Member).
Other Interested Parties: Jennifer Fredette (MAXIMUS) and Terry Lee (Gilead Sci's).
Staff: Susan Besio (OVHA), Lori Collins (OVHA), Dr. Michael Farber (OVHA), Clark Eaton (OVHA), Robert Larkin (OVHA) and Stacey Baker (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- November 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- DAIL Budget Process Update (12-17-09)
- Category of Service Chart (11/09)
- Letters to Legislative Committees (Feb.08 and 09)
- Past MAB Recommendations on Dental, Vision, Dual-Eligibles and Reimbursement.

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The November 19, 2009 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

DAIL Budget Process – Brendan Hogan

Brendan Hogan, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL), addressed the development of DAIL's State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011 budget. DAIL and other agency departments have been attending special meetings with the Agency of Administration to determine viable solutions that could address the \$87 million dollar deficit in General Funds for the SFY 2011 budget. Exercises have included 8% general fund cuts, as well as a 20% cut in global commitment funds. There are also many contributing factors (still uncertain) at the federal level, including Health Care Reform, which makes this year's budget task extremely difficult.

Brendan and DAIL have been working closely with Senator Leahy's office regarding the Long Term Care Component of the Health Care Reform document. There is a large concern that states like Vermont could be excluded from receiving enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funds because Vermont has been a leader and already met higher standards (much like Choices For Care) being set forth by the Senate. DAIL has suggested that if Health Care Reform passes and this provision remains,

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Vermont would like to be included for the enhanced FMAP and not be penalized for Long Term Care waivers.

Director's Update – Susan Besio

Susan Besio, Director of the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), addressed the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011 Budget. Special Saturday meetings have been good for the budget development process, allowing the Agency of Administration staff and Agency of Human Services departments to work collaboratively on the significant deficit projected for SFY '11 and to make suggestions for reductions/efficiencies that will be necessary. Making matters worse, the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding supplement is scheduled to stop in January 2011.

The Governor's SFY '11 budget address is scheduled for January 19th and OVHA will be scheduled to brief its budget sometime after that address. The OVHA is building toward a sustainable state budget that can survive in the long run without a further extended federal stimulus package. The Administration is very concerned that our state programs will not be sustainable after ARRA.

Susan also summarized the OVHA's SFY '10 Budget Adjustment testimony that was presented on December 15th. Although there has been a significant caseload increase, there have also been other mitigating factors that have contributed to counterbalancing our current year budget.

SFY '11 Budget Inputs – MAB Membership

The membership did not provide any specific budget recommendations to move forward. There was much discussion that if budget cuts had to be made and were recommended by OVHA, members hoped that services would be prioritized and protected for Vermonters with the lowest levels of income and the highest levels of need.

MAB Request Topics

- Budget Adjustment Update
- Budget Update
- DAIL, DCF, VDH and DMH Budget Updates
- Health Care Reform Update
- TIGER Team Update
- Update on Dual Eligible Study

Next Meeting

January 28, 2010

Time: 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier, VT