
**Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2008**

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PRESENT

Board: Peter Taylor (VSDS), Christina Colombe (Member), Sarah Littlefeather (Member), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Kay Van Woert (Parent to Parent), Julie Tessler (VCCMHS), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Mary Shriver (VHCA), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Anita Hoy (COVE), Garry Schaedel (VDH), Jackie Majoros (VLA), Dale Hackett (Member) and Sharon Henault (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Brendan Hogan (DAIL), Jen Fredette (MAXIMUS), Sandra Driscoll (CMS) and Cathy Voyer (AHS).

Staff: Stephanie Beck (OVHA), Lori Collins (OVHA), Peter McNichol (OVHA), Clark Eaton (OVHA), Stacey Baker (OVHA), Leah Korce (OVHA) and Robert Larkin (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- April 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- May 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Medicaid Advisory Board (MAB) draft meeting dates through June 30, 2009
- Transportation Procedures Manual (4-1-08)
- ESI & Catamount Health Premium Assistance Program Report (May 08)

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The April 24, 2008 and May 22, 2008 meeting minutes were submitted for approval and both were approved unanimously by the board.

Health Care Reform Update – Kevin Veller/ Betsy Forrest

Kevin Veller, Health Care Reform & Outreach and Enrollment Director at the OVHA, provided an overview on Green Mountain Care (GMC) advertising/marketing to date. The successful multi media advertising campaign in November 2007 and January 2008, showed that (out of a pool of 600 Vermonters surveyed) 45% of the surveyed public had heard of GMC. While the average consumer recall for a 30 second television ad is 21%-22%, GMC's ads produced an astounding recall rate of 69%. More importantly, one in five Vermonters took some sort of action on GMC and 58% of Vermonter's expressed some sort of interest in GMC. Since its inception, 2,000 people have been trained to help staff all of the various aspects of GMC.

During the month of May, GMC partnered with a local radio station in an effort to encourage college seniors to check out their health insurance options before they graduated. The month long campaign culminated in a sold-out concert. In addition to over 120 radio and print exposures, colleges throughout Vermont sent e-mails to their seniors with this same message. Also, the VT Bar Association partnered with GMC to

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target recent high school graduates who may be going on their own and coming off of their parents' health care plans.

There are plans to run TV ads again during the fall of 2008.

Betsy Forrest, Health Care Affordability Director at the OVHA, provided an ESI & Catamount Health Premium Assistance Program Report. As of May 31, 2008, 4692 people are enrolled in the new categories of Catamount Health, Catamount Health premium assistance, and ESI premium assistance. Overall health care program enrollment is up 9785 since July, 2007.

Medicaid Transportation – Stephanie Beck/Cathy Voyer/Peter McNichol

Cathy Voyer, AHS Director of Housing and Transportation, and Stephanie Beck, the OVHA's Director of Communications, summarized the recent activities involving Medicaid transportation. For the administrative portion of the Medicaid transportation program (not for actual services), the OVHA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), received bids and had made a preliminary bid selection. Subsequently, the state cancelled the procurement; this summer the AHS/OVHA is visiting local transportation providers/brokers to hear concerns and discuss the Medicaid transportation program firsthand.

Peter McNichol, Provider Relations Specialist for Medicaid transportation at the OVHA, discussed a new recurring process for updating/revising the Medicaid Transportation Procedures Manual. For the initial revision, inputs are due to the OVHA by July 10, 2008 for a scheduled August 1, 2008 republication. The MAB membership will be on the distribution list to provide inputs for this and all future revisions, scheduled to occur semiannually. Clark Eaton will furnish the schedule to the MAB.

If a new Medicaid transportation RFP is drafted, the MAB requested to review it and be able to provide inputs before it goes out; the OVHA will determine if this is appropriate protocol for this type of procurement.

State Fiscal Year (SFY) '09 MAB Meeting Dates – Kay Van Woert

MAB members reviewed and approved meetings dates for the SFY '09. Small Work Groups will meet at the OVHA on July 24, 2008 and on their own as scheduled over the summer and beyond. There will not be a formal MAB meeting during August, 2008. The next full MAB meeting will be held on September 25, 2008 at the OVHA; the complete schedule for SFY '09 MAB meetings will be distributed again to the MAB membership and be posted on the OVHA web site.

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Small Work Group Discussion – MAB Members

Kay Van Woert summarized her recent discussion with Joshua Slen, Director of the OVHA, on support for Small Work Groups that will come together this summer to focus on the key issues identified below:

1. Consumer Group: better connecting Medicaid policy making to consumer expertise, from the beginning, and improving consumer access generally.
2. Mobility Device Group: review of Medicaid regulations on mobility devices. Deborah Lisi-Baker will lead this group.
3. Dual Eligibles Group: improving the interface of benefits between the Medicaid and Medicare programs for dual eligibles. Jackie Majoros will lead this group.
4. Provider Reimbursement Group: improving process/connecting MAB to process for developing future budget recommendations specifically on provider reimbursement levels. Mary Shriver will head this group.
5. Budget Group: working to identify ways to make the Medicaid budget process more transparent, more comprehensive and big-picture oriented, and to better engage the MAB in identifying areas for both savings and investment in earlier stages of the budget process.

Kay Van Woert will provide a preliminary list of Small Work Group composition and send out a request for more MAB members to volunteer to serve on each group. Each group will meet at a designated time on July 24, 2008 during the morning period at the OVHA in Williston. That schedule follows:

9:30-10:00 AM	Provider Reimbursement Work Group
10:00-10:30 AM	Budget Process Work Group
10:30-11:00 AM	Dual Eligibles Work Group
11:00-11:30 AM	Mobility Device Regulations Work Group
11:30-12:30 AM	Consumer Work Group (connecting policy-making with consumer expertise)

New Business – MAB Members

Garry Shaedel discussed movement on a possible moratorium for the planned CMS federal cuts to Medicaid for schools. This initiative passed in the House, but had not come to a vote in the Senate. There should be an outcome by the end of June, 2008.

Peter Taylor introduced the need for Medicaid coverage for a special needs adult population – pregnant women and nursing mothers. The costs should not be overwhelming and this can become part of the MAB Budget Group's discussion.

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MAB Request Topics

- Provider Reimbursement update - allocation process for the \$1.2 million in the SFY09 Budget
- Update on Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the Global Commitment Waiver

Next Meeting

July 24, 2008

Small Work Groups (at scheduled intervals)

Time: 9:30AM – 12:30PM

Location: OVHA, Williston, VT