
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2008

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Kay Van Woert (Vermont Family Network), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Peter Taylor (VSIDS), Garry Schaedel (VDH), Michael Sirotkin (COVE), Grant Whitmer (BSPCA), Hunt Blair (BSPCA), Dale Hackett (Member), Lila Richardson (HCO), Anita Hoy (COVE), Peter Cobb (VAHHA), Julie Tessler (VCDMHS), and Lisa Bushey (Alt. Consumer).

Other Interested Parties: Valerie Lewis (VMS), Leslie Hammond (VHCA), Brendan Hogan (DAIL), Cherie Bergeron (EDS), Jackie Levine (DCF), Jen Fredette (Maximus), Susan Bauer (Maximus), Eric Rappaport (Eli Lilly), David Poole (Gilead Sciences) and Terry Lee (Gilead Sciences).

Staff: Joshua Slen (OVHA), Lori Collins (OVHA), Clark Eaton (OVHA) and Robert Larkin (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- September 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- SFY '09 MAB Meeting Dates
- Community Transportation Services (VPTA Association Members)/ State Map
- Green Mountain Care Enrollment Report (Oct. '08)

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The September 25, 2008 meeting minutes were submitted for approval and were approved unanimously by the board.

Medicaid Transportation Update – Cathy Voyer/ Stephanie Beck

Cathy Voyer, Director of Housing and Transportation at the Agency of Human Services (AHS) and Stephanie Beck, Communications Director at the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), provided an update on the transfer of control within the operation of the state's Medicaid Transportation program. The Vermont Public Transportation Association (VPTA) is dissolving in their existing role and the OVHA and private transportation brokers will begin to share many of the former association's responsibilities effective January 1, 2009. Transportation brokers will deliver services under separate contracts being negotiated now.

State maps were provided showing the service areas of the different transportation brokers, along with an attached legend showing the names and acronyms of the brokers. The Northwest corner of the state will now be covered by Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) following a recent merger between Network of St. Albans and GMTA.

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There was discussion regarding the requirements for and the use of child car seats in Medicaid provided transportation. Stephanie Beck suggested that a meeting be held with the Vermont Department of Health, the Agency of Transportation and the OVHA to reach a common understanding on state compliance requirements for the use of child car seats.

Director's Update – Joshua Slen

Joshua Slen, Director of the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), provided an update on the OVHA budget. A Green Mountain Care handout (October, 2008) was distributed which not only showed Catamount Health and Employee Sponsored Insurance enrollment, but also included all other Medicaid benefit program enrollment numbers.

Additional time will be allocated in November to fully explore the budget. The board passed a motion to devote the entire November Medicaid Advisory Board Meeting to the state's Medicaid program budget projections and analysis. The meeting will begin one half hour earlier (9:30 am) on November 20, 2008, to accommodate all there is to cover.

Through week 16, the OVHA is on target for executing its SFY '09 budget of approximately \$672 million. Currently, programs remain \$5 million to the good with a margin of error of less than 1%. However, the weekly draw varies between \$7 and \$18 million, and it can take four to six weeks to forecast a developing trend in either direction. With the downturn in the economy, even if the OVHA stays on budget, there will likely be tens of millions of dollars in state deficit because of lower revenues. Budget choices may shape up to be some of the toughest the state has had to face in the last decade.

The OVHA will continue budget development throughout this calendar year; final budget targets may not be available until late January of '09. The MAB will stay engaged in the budget development process.

Telemedicine Project Update- Hunt Blair/ Peter Cobb

Currently, there are 24 states that reimburse for tele-med services. The work group suggests that the board and OVHA look into working with Bi-State and Home Health to develop plans and strategies that would be best suited for telemedicine. This type of thinking will act as a springboard for identifying other projects where costs associated with travel and office visits can be cut or eliminated.

The MAB passed the following motion: "The Medicaid Advisory Board urges the Office of Vermont Health Access to analyze developing initiatives and future options for telemedicine in Vermont, with particular attention to the potential for Medicaid reimbursement".

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Small Group Report Outs- MAB Members

- The Mobility Device Work Group is scheduled to meet at the OVHA in Williston, October 30, 2008, from 1:00-3:00 PM.
- The Consumer Work Group meets today (October 23, 2008) following this meeting.
- The Dual Eligibility Work Group is conducting preliminary work. Brendan Hogan organized a call with Legal Aid and DMerc focusing on wheelchairs and replacement parts. They are also analyzing policy that is already in place.

New Business – MAB Members

Changes to programs at DAIL were discussed that came following the August, 2008 rescission. Brendan Hogan covered changes that were made to the Attendant Services Program as well as a reduction in hours for the IADL's (Instrumental Activities of Daily Living) program. The IADL's 5.5 activity hours were reduced by 1 hour. The emergency rule change process was used following the rescission. Lila Richardson expressed concern on the use of the emergency rule change process relating to this program.

There was concern expressed on perceived "new" limitations being placed on some provided services like developmental education, occupational and speech therapies. Consumers would like to review policies. Kay Van Woert will follow up with Joshua Slen and Lori Collins on issues surrounding occupational and speech therapies. In general, the MAB wants to be sure that consumers know where they can go to surface issues like this and know that the OVHA will be considering their inputs.

MAB Request Topics

- Expanded Budget Briefing and Analysis for the November 20, 2008 MAB meeting
- Departmental Budget Updates for December Meeting
- SFY '09 Budget Distribution for EPSDT
- Children's Integrated Services Update
- VHAP employer sponsored insurance data and disenrollment data (denials and for non-payment)

Next Meeting

November 20, 2008

Time: 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Location: OVHA, Williston, VT

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Consumer Subcommittee Meeting

November 20, 2008

Time: 12:00PM – 1:30PM

Location: OVHA, Williston, VT

Consumer Subcommittee Meeting

Members: Edna Fairbanks-Williams, Dale Hackett, Christina Colombe and Kay Van Woert (MAB Chair). **OVHA Staff:** Lori Collins and Clark Eaton

A Consumer Subcommittee meeting was held at the OVHA immediately following the October 23, 2008 MAB meeting. In September, the group had discussed focusing on a project that would broaden consumer input at the vendor level and use this information as a valuable feedback tool at the OVHA level. The project involved the creation of a postcard/comment card that would be placed with suppliers for Durable Medical Equipment/Supplies. Consumers could provide valuable feedback and suggestions to improve products, availability and service delivery. Timely feedback from a similar project has been stalled and the project will be tabled and reconsidered at a later consumer meeting.

The group discussed other possible ways to get good consumer feedback to the OVHA in a timely manner.

The Consumer Subcommittee adjourned at 1:00 PM.