
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 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 (VSDS), Denis Barton (VDH), Michael Sirotkin (COVE), Dale Hackett (Member), Trinkia Kerr (HCO), Sarah LittleFeather (Member), Deborah Lisi-Baker (VCDR), Julie Tessler (VCDMHS), Sharon Henault (Member) and Lisa Bushey (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Valerie Lewis (VMS), Michelle Scanlon (BSPCA), Anita Hoy (COVE), Brendan Hogan (DAIL), Cherie Bergeron (EDS), Jackie Levine (DCF), Jen Fredette (Maximus), Susan Bauer (Maximus), Chong Tieng (CMS).

Staff: Joshua Slén (OVHA), Lori Collins (OVHA), Clark Eaton (OVHA), Robert Larkin (OVHA), Lorraine Siciliano (OVHA) and Stacey Baker (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- October 23, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Medicaid Budget Projections (Five-yr)
- Green Mountain Care Enrollment Report
- AHS Actuary Calculation Spreadsheet (All Eligibles – FFY 06-09)

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The October 23, 2008 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. One recommended edit was made and the minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

Sadly, it was announced that board member Mary Shriver had passed away on November 16, 2008. Clark Eaton will send out obituary information to the board.

Director's Report/Budget Briefing – Joshua Slén

Joshua Slén, Director of the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), provided a detailed overview of OVHA's SFY '09 budget. Due to revenue projection downgrades for SFY 2009 and 2010, there will be pressure on nearly all in-state Medicaid programs. For Vermont, there is a projected 6% reduction in state funds. The OVHA will live within the appropriations for FY '09 with the possibility of a slight adjustment within the general fund.

Nationally, there is a proposal for a 4% increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). The board moved to draft a letter addressed to the congressional delegation conveying the urgency of this matter. The motion passed. Even with a 4% increase, program revisions will still have to be made.

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Fortunately, even considering the current economic downturn, trends are not outside of OVHA's projections. The Catamount Health initiative may decrease in size, but will not be cut. The primary focus will be the possible retooling of outreach within the program. There will not be a highly visible advertising campaign across the state again this year.

Nationally, there could be a 10-15% increase in enrollment in state Medicaid programs as the economy moves further into recession. It is still unclear how Vermont will be impacted. The OVHA continues to conduct budgeting exercises, considering the current and projected economic climate.

MAB members expressed concern on the potential impact of program cutbacks. Often, cuts reflect cost shifting that can make programs ineffective, while yielding no savings to the state as a whole.

Kay Van Woert will draft a letter to the Governor (with copies to AHS and the Health Access Oversight Committee) expressing concern for the Medicaid program when considering budget cuts. The draft will be circulated via e-mail to all MAB members for comment and sent out before Thanksgiving. Julie Tessler mentioned that the One Vermont Coalition is also drafting a letter requesting the Legislature not make any immediate changes and waits to assess economic and legislative impact in January. MAB members, on behalf of their working organizations, will have the opportunity to support this initiative.

The Global Commitment waiver was discussed. Currently, there are no cap issues; OVHA is currently under the cap in the fourth year of a five year waiver. As part of the budget build for the next SFY, the state will probably have to go to its federal partner for approval and adjustment of the waiver. Also, the state will probably prepare a submission for a waiver renewal request in the fall of 2009.

MAB Request Topics

- Other Departmental Budget Updates for December Meeting
- Invite new AHS Secretary to attend next MAB meeting
- Provide National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) Position Paper
- VHAP employer sponsored insurance data and disenrollment data (denials and for non-payment)
- Number of people who are Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) and Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLIMBs)

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Next Meeting

December 18, 2008

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: OVHA, Williston, VT

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Consumer Subcommittee Meeting

Members: Edna Fairbanks-Williams, Dale Hackett, Christina Colombe, Sharon Henault, Lisa Bushey and Kay Van Woert (MAB Chair).

Other Interested Parties: Jackie Levine, (Economic Services Division, DCF), Kim LaFrance, (Economic Services Division, DCF), Donna Sutton Fay (Campaign for Healthcare Security) and Peter Sterling (Campaign for Healthcare Security).

OVHA Staff: Kevin Veller and Clark Eaton

A Consumer Subcommittee meeting was held at the OVHA immediately following the November 20, 2008 MAB meeting to discuss and collect inputs on the 010B Application for Health Care Programs that is being updated.

Kevin Veller facilitated the meeting and had provided MAB Consumer Subcommittee members with the most current version of the application form to review prior to the meeting. Kevin took suggestions, answered questions and emphasized the importance of collecting specific inputs from committee members that would simplify, streamline and improve the 010B Application. Many good suggestions were discussed, including reordering, reprioritizing and ways to shorten the application.

Kevin also asked the committee members to provide specific e-mail inputs/suggestions. She will consolidate this meeting's inputs with those inputs and provide a summary back to everyone in December.

The Consumer Subcommittee adjourned at 1:00 PM.