
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2009

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Kay Van Woert (Vermont Family Network), Trinka Kerr (VLA), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Peter Taylor (VSDS), Anita Hoy (COVE), Dale Hackett (Member), Sharon Henault (Member), Julie Tessler (VCDMHS), Jackie Majoros (VLA) and Lisa Bushey (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Brendan Hogan (DAIL), Jackie Levine (DCF), and Jen Fredette (Maximus).

Staff: Susan Besio (OVHA), Lori Collins (OVHA), Robert Larkin (OVHA), Rebecca Bailey (OVHA), Lorraine Siciliano (OVHA) and Stacey Baker (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- January 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The January 22, 2009 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

Director's Report – Susan Besio

Susan Besio, Director of the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), provided an update regarding budget issues. The budget adjustment will be going to committee for consensus. Both the House and the Senate did not accept the following proposed changes for this year's budget: Provider Rate decrease, Dental Cap, Crossover Claims change and the elimination of VPharm. Chiropractic coverage is proposed to be restored 4/1/09. SFY 2010: OVHA has testified in House Appropriations, House Human Services, House Health Care and the Senate Health & Welfare Committee; there will be testimony in Senate Appropriations on March 17.

Susan Besio discussed the Stimulus package, worth an estimated \$90 million in the next fiscal year. There is an executive branch group working on estimates and requirements. Maintenance of effort is required -- eligibility standards and methodology cannot be altered or changed. The proposal to increase VHAP and Dr. Dynasaur has been withdrawn. The July 3, 2008 Dr. Dynasaur premium increase may need to be rescinded. The HHS Committee asked the OVHA to look at cost sharing options within the VPharm programs. There was a memo prepared regarding this and it will be forwarded to the Medicaid Advisory Board (MAB).

Kay Van Woert asked if there still remains a drive to cut Medicaid or to determine if there is any room to "tread water" for the time being. The administration is still in line to eliminate VPharm. OVHA will be submitting a waiver amendment request to CMS

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within a week that will include a request that VPharm be covered in a population's entirety. This would drop the \$5 million in State funds to \$2 million in State funds. In addition, OVHA will ask for the inclusion of domestic violence to be one of the 12-month exceptions. For certain states that pay 100% of drugs provided, the state works with the manufacturer to obtain rebates.

Susan Besio spent some time talking about the limitations of global commitment on new investments: the limit is 5% and Vermont currently is at 7%. Kay Van Woert requested information on how Global Commitment investment use/capture might have impacted use of state funds to drawdown of funds from the federal Maternal and Child Health block grant and Susan Besio said she would check.

A Consumer meeting was proposed to further explain timing and notices regarding premiums at the request of Sharon Henault and the MAB.

Kay Van Woert asked about an OVHA study regarding provider reimbursement rate increase history and whether it was used in determining budget cut recommendations. Lori Collins and Susan Besio will check on previous work done by Nancy Clermont and Joshua Slen.

Budget Discussion – DAIL – Joan Senecal

Joan Senecal, Commissioner of The Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) provided a handout and gave a brief synopsis regarding certain SFY '10 budget and position reductions within DAIL. There are currently 63 high needs people on the Choices for Care waiting list. A handout was supplied and key segments were covered from the document. Highlights included: DAIL Grants, Blind and Visually Impaired Division decreases and reductions, Vocational Rehabilitation decreases, Traumatic Brain Injury Program decreases (4% decrease in provider grants), and SFY '10 increases made to Developmental Services. Kay Van Woert inquired about additional Developmental Services Data that could be provided. DAIL will provide this data for the MAB.

Budget Discussion – DCF – Steve Dale

Steve Dale, Commissioner of The Department of Children and Families, provided a handout highlighting SFY '10 proposed budget increases and decreases. Due to time constraints, Mr. Dale provided a brief synopsis of the handout making note of increases that included Economic Services (food stamp expansion and direct benefits, reach-up caseload), Family Services (adoption subsidies, over 18 services for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care, Woodside improvements, S-13 prevention, and targeted case management changes) and Child Development (Child Care Initiative, explained on page 3).

Major decreases anticipated at DCF include the reduction of 54 positions, 4% reduction in contracts and grants, transfer of field services to AHS, a \$2.8 million reduction in

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Reach-Up policy changes, a \$1.3 million reduction of AABD Supplement (Reduce Net COLA), the elimination of Building Bright Futures Regional Directors, a reduction in family support child care and the elimination of Individual Development Accounts. This reflects a 7.9% change in the budget.

Budget Discussion – DVH – Christine Finley

Chris Finley, Deputy Commissioner of Vermont Department of Health (VDH), provided an extensive handout regarding the department's SFY 10 Budget Request. A breakdown of funding shows a total budget request of \$114,402,369 for SFY '10 -- \$8 million less than the budget for SFY '09.

At the request of Appropriations, programs/functions have been prioritized, indicated by the pyramids depicted in the handouts.

The budget reflects a loss of 68 positions, not including some more possible cuts to come. To date, the budget reflects a 10% reduction in force; there has also been a 4% reduction in grants and contracts.

Budget Discussion – DMH – Michael Hartman

Michael Hartman, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH), also provided a handout outlining the Department's SFY '10 Budget request. An SFY '09 Budget as passed reflects a total of \$137,651,731. After rescissions, the Budget is shown as \$130,216,206.

The summary data that was briefed reflects the following totals:

- Total SFY '09 DMH Big Bill As Passed: \$159,399,367.
- Total SFY '09 DMH Reduction/Rescission Changes: \$7,503,158.
- Total SFY '10 DMH Starting Point: \$151,896,210.
- Total SFY '10 DMH ups and downs: \$5,498,319
- Total SFY '10 DMH Gov Recommended: \$157,394,529.

MAB Request Topics

- AHS Secretary Presentation
- List of acronyms
- OVHA memo to HHS Committee regarding VPharm Cost Sharing
- Report on status/use of OVHA provider reimbursement rate history study
- Impact on Global Commitment investment vs. use of state funds to drawdown of funds from the federal Maternal and Child Health block grant
- Consumer Group meeting to cover premium notices and timing issues
- Breakdown of Developmental Services cuts
- Update on Stimulus Package

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Next Meeting

March 26, 2009

Time:10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier, VT