
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2009

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Kay Van Woert (Vermont Family Network), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Member), Peter Taylor (VSDS), Anita Hoy (COVE), Sharon Henault (Member), Jackie Majoros (VLA), Michelle Scanlon (BSPCA), Sarah Littlefeather (Member), Sheila Reed (VVC) and Lisa Maynes (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Brendan Hogan (DAIL), Jackie Levine (DCF), Cherie Bergeron (EDS) and Bonnie Christian (VLA).

Staff: Lori Collins (OVHA), Clark Eaton (OVHA), Robert Larkin (OVHA), Kim Harnois (OVHA), and Stacey Baker (OVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- List of Acronyms
- February 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- DAIL Update on Developmental Services Program

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The February 26, 2009 meeting minutes were submitted for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

OVHA Update – Lori Collins

Lori Collins, Deputy Director of the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), provided an update regarding the stimulus package and the FMAP enhancement. It was also noted that AHS Secretary Rob Hofmann would be attending the meeting to introduce himself to the Board and address challenges facing the state.

To date, \$90.5 million of enhanced funding had already been earmarked for the SFY '10 budget. An additional \$36.3 million is to be earmarked for future Medicaid Programs, including the sustainment of some form of pharmacy benefit program. In order to receive the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase, the state needs to keep and meet the same eligibility and methodology standards. The Deputy Director also pointed out that the Budget Adjustment Act remains unsigned.

Christina Colombe addressed some concerns that she had regarding the possible elimination of VPharm 3. One concern would be the ability of both pharmacies and beneficiaries to be able to keep track of all the plan changes. It was agreed that her questions and concerns would be directed through Stacey Baker, within the Pharmacy Unit at OVHA.

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Regarding a study of Provider Reimbursement rates requested last year, the OVHA will work with the Vermont Medical Society and others, and will provide a follow-up report at a future meeting when all of the data and information is available. The OVHA is also staffing the impact on Global Commitment investment vs. use of state funds to drawdown of funds from the federal Maternal and Child block grant.

Developmental Services Update – Brendan Hogan

Brendan Hogan, Deputy Commissioner of DAIL, provided a handout detailing Developmental Services Impacts for SFY '10. An overall increase of \$5,999,284 can be expected for SFY10. Much of this figure (\$4,000,563) is dedicated to caseload pressures. These funds will be spent using a system of care plan prioritization process that begins at the local level. The Medicaid Advisory Board (MAB) requested more detailed information on children's integrated services; this will be provided at a future meeting.

AHS Update – Rob Hofmann

Rob Hofmann, Secretary of the Agency of Human Services (AHS), attended the meeting and gave a brief summary of his professional background, both in the public and private sector. Mr. Hofmann most recently served the state as the Commissioner of Corrections for the past four years.

MAB members expressed concerns surrounding potential budget reductions/ proposals that would adversely impact the state's Medicaid program. Kay Van Woert felt that the proposed 4% across-the-board reduction in provider rates was too crude a solution to help balance the budget. Mr. Hofmann reiterated the commitment within AHS to mitigate as much as possible reductions within Social Services, while making best use of the federal stimulus package. AHS will strive for improvement, but at the same time the organization must recognize there will be limitations considering the shrinking resources that exist. MAB members urged AHS to approach all obstacles with a more holistic and proactive approach. The Secretary suggested that concerns regarding any issue within AHS should always be presented to allow all necessary parties the best and most accurate forum for discussion and problem solving.

Mr. Hofmann thanked the board for its involvement and encouraged MAB members to continue to make specific suggestions on how Vermont can best get through the current turbulent economic times.

New Business – MAB

Vice Chair Peter Taylor assumed Chair duties near the end of the meeting due to Chairperson Kay Van Woert's early departure. Mr. Taylor and MAB board members discussed possible board action or resolutions. It was agreed that the best course of action at this point would be to continue receiving regular state/legislative updates, especially in regards to the stimulus package. With this information, any MAB inputs would be passed

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through Kay Van Woert to provide to the Administration and Legislature as deemed appropriate.

MAB Request Topics

- Budget Update
- 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 – schedule to follow the May 28 regular MAB meeting
- Children's Integrated Services program information
- Update on Stimulus Package

Next Meeting

April 23, 2009

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier, VT