

**Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2011**

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PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Lila Richardson (HCO), Hilde Hyde (Member), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Lisa Maynes (Member), Nathaniel Waite (VDH), Sharon Henault (Member), Jackie Majoros (LTCO), Julie Tessler (CDMHS), Anita Hoy (COVE), Peter Taylor (VSDS), Sheila Reed (VVC), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Dale Hackett (Member), Denis Barton (BSPCA) and Corey Armstrong (DHMC).

Other Interested Parties: Gini Milkey (COVE), Danielle Hibbard (BSPCA), Sonia Tagliento (MAXIMUS), Barbara Beaty (HP) and Spring Shover (HP).

Staff: Susan Besio (DVHA), Lori Collins (DVHA), Stacey Baker (DVHA), Peter McNichol (DVHA) and Clark Eaton (DVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- February 24, 2011 Meeting Minutes
- March 24, 2011 Meeting Minutes
- Act Relating to Hospice and Palliative Care (DVHA 4/28/11)
- Federal HCR Funding Opportunities (4/28/11)

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The February 24 and March 24, 2011 meeting minutes were submitted for approval and both were approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Update – Susan Besio

The Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), Susan Besio, discussed the current SFY'12 budget status. This week, the Legislature has moved into Conference Committee sessions and the latest information indicates that, on the revenue side: 1) the dental tax is out, 2) there is a proposed broad increase in the medical claims tax and, 3) a cigarette tax (53 cent increase) is now part of the budget. However, the administration has forwarded a memorandum expressing concern about both the cigarette tax and application of the medical claims tax. There is also interest in doing a study/analysis of what it would look like if a broader assessment was implemented in the future across all 18 provider groups in the state. This would be a longer term, extensive project and would require hiring someone specifically to complete the work.

On the program side of the budget, the new Catamount and VHAP proposals are now totally off the board. Instead, there is now language that says that carriers (BCBS, MVP) will reduce their reimbursement to providers by 10% and also reduce their administrative costs. Savings will accrue to the state, with the net goal being that nothing changes for beneficiaries – premium levels will remain as they were. There was also a proposal on the House side to implement a new program for high risk pregnancies; this would involve

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adding two new positions and savings wouldn't be realized until the second year. DVHA also has formally submitted a palliative care proposal to CMS that would allow for simultaneous palliative and curative care for children. Susan discussed the new Section 3 to H.201 relating to hospice and palliative care that would require the state to submit Medicare and Medicaid waivers to enable the state to provide an overall enhanced hospice access benefit. This section was added in the House without any input from the state. Work will go forward and the MAB will be kept informed on the progress of this effort. An update may be requested for the May MAB meeting.

Kay Van Woert asked if there was any new information on the autism insurance bill. Susan indicated that the autism initiative involving Medicaid coverage has been delayed for a year. More study is needed to determine how to most effectively/efficiently pay for autism services in the future. The MAB would like to add the autism issue for briefing and discussion at the next meeting.

Susan provided the current handout and status of Health Care Reform funding opportunities and asked members to review them. If there are questions or if there are any program elements that should be scheduled for briefing at a future meeting, please let Clark Eaton know.

Dale Hackett discussed a potential problem on beneficiary close outs for lack of premium payments. When restarting, some beneficiaries are being assigned different primary care physicians. While there are reasons this could happen, DVHA will look into ways to see that continuity of PCP assignments are maintained in these situations whenever possible.

Board Discussion Items – MAB Membership

The membership continued to discuss the legislation to expand the advisory board as part of health care reform and include the health benefit exchange under the board's purview. Kay Van Woert distributed the March 8, 2011 letter the MAB forwarded to the House Health Committee and Denis Barton handed out the latest legislative language for the creation of a "Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee" by July 1, 2012. This most recent Senate version of H.202 is now going into Conference Committee. The total membership of the new committee would be 23, with up to three representatives being health insurers. The remaining 20 members would be equally split between four constituencies: 1) Medicaid Beneficiaries, 2) Vermont health benefit exchange representatives, 3) consumer advocates, and 4) health care professionals. Lila Richardson suggested time be set aside for a briefing by Robin Lunge and an extended discussion of this topic at the June MAB meeting.

Sharon Henault made a motion to have the MAB request that the Legislature include an adult disabled consumer group as part of the proposed Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee make-up. The MAB did not disagree with this idea in principle, but voted not

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to seek a change to the legislative language. The language is general enough to allow for appropriate membership selection by the DVHA Commissioner in the future.

Denis Barton suggested that it would be good to have an informational briefing for the MAB from the Vermont Ethics Network at a future meeting. The group has been active in promoting palliative care/hospice care in the state and continues to do a lot of excellent educational work in a number of areas.

Premium Refunds – Michele Betit

Michele Betit, Director of Health Care Eligibility, Economic Services Division, discussed a premium refund issue that had been discovered in the last couple of months. The ACCESS program software was not properly refunding premium credits. The DCF Commissioner has just sent out a letter to approximately 11,000 affected beneficiaries describing the error and the anticipated corrective action that will be taken. The average refund check that will be applied as a result of this error is \$36.50 and refunds will either go out or be credited with 45 days. Also, Member Services (MAXIMUS) is running a banner announcement on its voice response call in system and all call centers are aware of the issue and can respond to questions.

Board members questioned whether some beneficiaries might have been erroneously closed out, but Michele explained that if at least the required monthly premium was paid or on the client's account, the software was responding correctly and coverage was not being closed out. Only when the credit was less than the premium amount due, would the credit not be applied and sit on the account.

DVHA will forward a copy of the Commissioner's letter to the MAB for their review. Member Services has its phone number listed in the letter and also will assist individuals with unique situations.

MAB Request Topics/Data

- Update on Dual Eligible Study
- Update on Bridges Program
- Evaluation of Chronic Care Initiatives
- MMIS Update
- Information on PMPM net of premiums; Dr. Dynasaur and Pharmacy programs
- Blueprint Program & Data Update/Evaluation – June Update
- ADA Compliance Process for AHS
- Modernization/Eligibility/Call Center – May Update
- Policy Review – Limitations on OT/PT for Chronic Conditions (seek legislative changes)
- Recruiting New Consumer Member for MAB
- Update on Medicaid Home Health Initiative
- Vermont's CHIP Participation; CHIPRA Update

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- Enhanced Hospice and Palliative Care – May Update
- Premium Refund Update
- Vocational Rehab Topic
- Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee – June Update
- Autism Bill Initiative – June Update
- Loss of PCP/PCP continuity following break in benefit
- Discussion of EPSDT access issues

Next Meeting

May 26, 2011

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: DVHA, Williston, VT