
Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2011

Page 1

PRESENT

Board: Christina Colombe (Member), Kay Van Woert (VFN), Susan Barrett (BSPCA), Wendy Davis (VDH), Laura Pelosi (VHCA), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Madeleine Mongan (VMS), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Elizabeth Cote (VSDS), Sharon Henault (Member), Jackie Majoros (SLTC), Julie Tessler (VCDMH) and Dale Hackett (Member).

Other Interested Parties: Peter Taylor (VSDS), Danielle Hibbard (BSPCA), Sonia Tagliento (MAXIMUS), Alexis Perkins (MAXIMUS), Cherie Bergeron (HP), Barbara Beaty (HP), Lisa Schilling (HP), Jill Guerin (KSE Partners), Lucie Garand (DRM) and Betty Morse (VFN).

Staff: Lori Collins (DVHA), Dr. Michael Farber (DVHA), Bill Clark (DVHA), Peter McNichol (DVHA), Rob Larkin (DVHA), Clark Eaton (DVHA), Judy Jamieson (DVHA), Kevin Veller (DVHA) and Stacey Baker (DVHA).

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- October 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes
- DVHA Draft Strategic Plan (11/02/11)
- OTC Drug List (7/1/11)
- Drug Utilization Review Board (DUR) – Composition & Purpose
- Integration of Medicaid and the Health Benefit Exchange

CONVENE

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The October 27, 2011 meeting minutes were submitted for approval and were approved unanimously.

Commissioner's Report – Mark Larson

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) Commissioner, Mark Larson, provided a general update, indicating that DVHA is now focusing on the SFY '12 budget adjustment process. DVHA also is in the early stages of the SFY '13 budget development process; there is nothing to report budget-wise yet.

Mark also provided the most updated version (11/02/11) of DVHA's Draft Strategic Plan for the MAB to review. MAB written or verbal comments on all aspects of the Draft Strategic Plan are encouraged. As a follow-up, DVHA will develop an annual work plan and use performance-based measures derived from the Strategic Plan. The MAB will plan for time at the December MAB Meeting to discuss input to the Strategic Plan. If there are discussion items identified ahead of the next meeting, members should forward them to DVHA (Clark Eaton) for consideration.

**Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2011**

Page 2

On Health Care Reform, there is a Health Benefit Exchange Advisory Group that is meeting monthly and the next meeting is tomorrow (Nov.18) at the Statehouse in Montpelier. This is an open public meeting and everyone is welcome. Many MAB representatives have been attending. DVHA will forward the link to the future meeting schedule of this Advisory Group.

Mark asked to review the MAB's requests for data and information which are included in the monthly minutes. DVHA will: 1) start sending the quarterly Global Commitment Reports to MAB members when the reports are routinely released, 2) follow up with AHS on an ADA compliance process, 3) provide an annual report soon on Vermont's CHIP participation (it is being finalized), 4) check into state policy on six or 12 month continuous eligibility for children, and 5) forward a Joint Fiscal Office report on churn that has been posted on the web.

As requested at the last meeting, Mark reported back on DVHA's use of the emergency rule process for requiring children to have a preauthorization for more than eight therapy visits. He indicated that, upon review, the process met the legal criteria for the use of emergency rule setting. Trinka Kerr disagreed and felt this scenario was an inappropriate use of emergency rule setting. Mark also noted that DVHA was still going ahead with the full rule making process for these situations. Kay Van Woert commented that it seemed like the majority of rules being promulgated by DVHA in recent years seemed to be under emergency rule making and suggested that Mark investigate the numbers on regular vs. emergency rule promulgation.

Mark introduced DVHA's Medical Director, Dr. Michael Farber, and pointed out the good work the Clinical Utilization Review Board (CURB) and the Drug Utilization Review Board (DUR) are doing to help formulate good policy. Moving forward, DVHA and the MAB will explore better ways to link MAB and consumer input into these important activities. Roles and descriptions of the CURB and DUR boards will be provided to the MAB.

Jackie Majoros motioned and the MAB concurred that the DVHA should strive to follow the guidelines of the Administrative Procedure Act.

MAB Work Plan Review/Current Medicaid Program Issues

Wendy Davis recapped the discussion the Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) small workgroup had during their October meeting. The group is compiling a list of issues that affect children and will continue to make progress at their meeting today (11/17). Issues are falling within four categories: 1) administrative barriers to service, 2) lack of care coordination and case management, 3) provider shortages due in part to low Medicaid reimbursement or onerous administration for participation in Medicaid, and 4) lack of screening.

**Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2011**

Page 3

Lori Collins, Deputy Commissioner of DVHA, reviewed the most recent 11/15 stakeholder meeting on the Dual Eligibles project. Some MAB members are regular attendees, but Lori recommended that DVHA provide the MAB copies of the minutes and a brief synopsis of activity. Others are encouraged to attend these meetings; the next meeting is scheduled for November 28th.

Bill Clark, DVHA's Director of Provider and Member Relations, provided an update on DVHA's new Systems Improvement Tracking process. There are now 19 active issues being tracked and the good news is that DVHA is nearing resolutions on some long standing issues. Bill also will look at providing a quarterly summary report on issues that are being tracked/resolved.

Integration of Medicaid and the Exchange – Robin Lunge

Robin Lunge, Vermont's Director of Health Care Reform, continued to provide the MAB an overview of Health Care Reform, stemming from the broad goals outlined in Act 48 and by reviewing the timeline stages of Vermont's proposed health reforms. Robin referenced her October, 2011 handout and reviewed the intended health coverage options under the Exchange umbrella for 2014, including some of the pros and cons of the four basic options. A chart comparing the Exchange subsidy with current Vermont subsidies was covered, along with possible solutions to Vermont and federal cost sharing issues.

Trinka Kerr stressed that the state will have to have an acceptable, affordable state wrap for this to work. Kay Van Woert also encouraged that Vermont look at a realistic, livable wage in the state and not rely strictly on published federal poverty levels.

After briefly covering future basic health plans, Robin again encouraged MAB members to provide feedback on all areas of her presentation, including inputs for the development of future Vermont Health Benefits Programs and Health Coverage Options for Medicaid and the Exchange for 2014. She will brief the MAB again at their December meeting.

Priority Areas of Interest for MAB Near-Term Discussion and Work

- Vermont Health Care Reform/Exchange Board/MAB role (and how to connect disability perspective)
- DVHA Strategic Plan
- Issues with current public programs:
 - o EPSDT (MAB workgroup)
 - o Dual Eligibles
 - o DUR/Rx
 - o Transportation
 - o Supplies/DME)
 - o Limitations on adult OT PT

Medicaid Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2011

Page 4

Ongoing Areas of Interest --Updates from DVHA as Timing is Appropriate

- Federal Health Care Reform Updates
- Chronic Care Initiative/Blueprint
- Update on Provider Tax Strategy and RFP
- Workgroup on Process Improvements (date for follow-on?)
- Loss of PCP/PCP continuity following break in benefit-DVHA to report back
- Dual Eligible Initiative
- Voc Rehab
- Integrated Family Services
- Bridge Program
- Autism Insurance
- Medicaid Home Health Initiative
- MMIS

MAB Requested Data/Information

- ADA Compliance process for AHS
- Evaluation of cost of 12 month continuous eligibility for children

Next Meetings

December 15, 2011

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Site: DVHA, Williston, VT

January 26, 2012

Time: 9:30AM – 12:00PM

Site: Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT

Notes from the 11/17/11 EPSDT Workgroup Meeting (12-1:00PM)

Attendees: Wendy Davis, Kay Van Woert, Dale Hackett, Madeleine Mongan, Betty Morse, Liz Cote, Peter Taylor, Sharon Henault, Bill Clark and Clark Eaton.

Wendy Davis led the meeting. The group continued its discussion on issues that are detrimental to children receiving EPSDT (Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) benefits. Limiting factors fall into four categories: 1) administrative barriers to service, 2) lack of care coordination and case management, 3) provider shortages due in part to low Medicaid reimbursement or onerous administration for participation in Medicaid, and 4) lack of screening. Challenges were shared and a draft inventory of issues has been circulated to the group. Other items will be added and the list will be recirculated again for possible additions. Wendy provided three handouts for discussion and review: 1) Integrated Family Services (including children services), 2) Children's Health and Support Services (CHASS), and 3) Developmental Screening Information.