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**Medicaid Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
February 28, 2008

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**PRESENT**

**Board:** Mary Shriver (VHCA), Christina Colombe (Consumer), Grant Whitmer (BSPCA), Sarah Littlefeather (Consumer), Kristi Kistler (DHMC), Deborah Lisi-Baker (VCDR), Peter Taylor (VSIDS), Trinka Kerr (HCO), Dale Hackett (Consumer), Larry Goetschius (VAHHA), Jacqueline Majoros (VLA), Kay Van Woert (Parent to Parent), Julie Tessler (VCCMHS), Anita Hoy (COVE), Edna Fairbanks-Williams (Consumer), Sharon Henault (Consumer), and Shelia Reed (VVC).

**Other Interested Parties:** Mary Coffey (Zatz and Renfrew Consulting), Cherie Bergeron (EDS), Les Birnbaum (DCF).

**Staff:** Nancy Clermont (OVHA), Stephanie Beck (OVHA), Stacey Baker (OVHA) and Robert Larkin (OVHA).

**HANDOUTS**

- Agenda
- January 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Memo – February 13, 2008 Change in Governor’s Recommended SFY09 Budget Book regarding the reinstatement of chiropractic coverage.
- Department of Mental Health Medicaid Increases – FY 2009
- DAIL House Appropriations Testimony – February 7, 2008
- DAIL FY09 Department Request
- DCF Summary of Global Commitment Expenses SFY08 and SFY09
- *New York Times* article, February 24, 2008

**CONVENE**

Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The January 24, 2008 meeting minutes were submitted for approval and were approved unanimously.

**Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) Director’s Update - Nancy Clermont**

Nancy Clermont, Deputy Director of the OVHA, addressed the fact that the Ways and Means Fee Bill did not provide the provider tax for hospitals, and the one Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR) that OVHA has must be lowered to 5.5%. There is currently no issue with the ICFMR; however, there is an issue concerning the provider tax for hospitals that OVHA is currently working on.

Extra copies of the OVHA budget document were distributed to three members of the board. Nancy Clermont explained that Section 15 of the document provides a budget detail summary and that the budget book has much information that answers many questions that may arise. However, if there are further information requests or questions, board members may e- mail Clark Eaton and he will address these items. Next week the

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legislature will be on recess and that will provide the OVHA a chance to catch up and plan out needs for the rest of the legislative session.

Discussion: Kay Van Woert had questions regarding the last MAB meeting on January 24, 2008, specifically dealing with information and background data that the MAB had requested from the OVHA. Nancy Clermont explained that some requests were not yet available. She explained that the OVHA wasn't always the correct or single office able to produce certain requests made by the board, and that other information and data requests were not complete due to a lack of resources or priority. Board members expressed their difficulty in responding to key concerns without the proper information and data. Nancy Clermont reiterated that the OVHA must prioritize/reprioritize what it takes on and this impacts on how quickly they are able to respond to requests. She also stated that it takes more time because data and information must be compiled by a combination of offices and departments.

Sharon Henault discussed the potential hardship that could come from increased premiums and co-pays. She suggested setting up a hardship clause within the budget to assist clients who are unable to afford the rate increases. A subcommittee was formed (Sharon Henault, Edna Fairbanks-Williams, Anita Hoy and Christina Colombe) to look into the hardship issue and the overall implications and impact of premium and co-pay increases. The group will meet and report back at the next meeting.

**Department Of Mental Health (DMH) Budget Update – Michael Hartman**

Michael Hartman, Commissioner of DMH, provided a handout which detailed Medicaid increases directly related to the DMH budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009. He explained that the DMH and the Health Department now have a unified business office, IT department, and research department. Currently, the department is awaiting approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow the Vermont State Hospital (VSH) to use Global Commitment (GC) Funding or Medicaid funding. There will be a two part summer visit to the hospital that will play a key role in the hospital's evaluation process. The decision from CMS on the use of GC Funding probably won't be made until sometime in late 2008 or early 2009.

The DMH SFY '09 budget does take into consideration the pending approval of GC funding from CMS. That will allow for some of the general fund to be moved out of the VSH and be replaced by GC dollars. It would allow for better funding flexibility and avoid having the entire \$22 million exist only in the general fund. In addition, \$1.6 million of GC will be dispersed among the agencies, and an additional \$1.3 million will address case load increases, specifically in the Children and CRT Program to address increases in the population.

The Success Beyond Six program was also discussed, which represents one of DMH's largest budget increases within the past few years. The program still needs some more

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established guidelines. The Futures Project continues to focus on communities that don't necessarily have established psychiatric units; the project offers a plan that would create a sector within the community to be able to address immediate concerns regarding mental health. The program would divert people in need towards community-based treatment facilities at an early age, while still retaining a certain number of inpatient beds in a hospital setting. DMH would like to see ten to twenty more beds set up residentially within the program. This program is being solidified and many improvements continue to be implemented.

The board expressed the need to further develop services similar to Burlington's Baird Center. There is a continuing goal is to move towards more home based and residential care capabilities.

**Department of Disabilities Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) Budget Update—  
Joan Senecal**

Joan Senecal, Commissioner of DAIL, provided a handout of testimony that was presented to the House Appropriations Committee on February 7, 2008. A general overview of the budget was presented while pointing out key changes and concerns regarding the budget. All of the current data was available in the handout provided.

The SFY '09 budget includes 5 new individuals under the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver at a cost of \$62,400 per individual. This brings the total for the TBI Waiver to \$712,000, including a \$400,000 cost carried into the next year.

The Developmental Services part of the budget has a 2.5% cost of living increase for the provider organizations (Designated Agencies and Specialized Service Agencies) that equals \$3,268,871. The amount to cover caseload increase is \$6,765,994. That funding would go to Flexible Family Funding (\$32,700); \$6,587,866 for Emergency Caseload (approximately 223 individuals); 9 high school graduates (\$270,629) and 27 Public Safety individuals at \$1,181,304. That brings the total increases in the Governor's budget to \$10,034,865.

**Agency of Human Services (AHS) Integrated Services for Children Initiative –  
Patrick Flood**

Patrick Flood, Deputy Secretary of AHS, provided a brief overview of Child Integrated Services. He stressed the need for a better understanding of how the agency centralizes care services for its clients, as well as his belief and intention in providing a complete agency overhaul in terms of providing services to the client. The agency would like to see services much more child focused and home care oriented. This would also call for flexibility in spending and funding for services and programs. A goal of the agency is to provide more unified care across AHS and within the Department of Education. Kay Van Woert requested that the board postpone all questions regarding Child Integrated

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Services until next month, when Sue Schmidt will be present and able to provide greater detail to any questions or concerns.

**MAB Requests - Nancy Clermont**

Nancy Clermont provided an update on the inventory and analysis of Provider Reimbursement. Currently, the data and information are logged into four large spreadsheets. The OVHA would like to be able to summarize the information in a two piece document, narrowing it down as much as possible while still providing full detail. The OVHA hopes to have the information available by the end of next week.

**New Business**

Jacqueline Majoros raised concerns about how the change in crossovers will impact dual eligibles. A subcommittee was established to deal with the dual eligibility issue; the committee will include Jacqueline Majoros, Deborah Lisi-Baker, Trinka Kerr and Edna Fairbanks-Williams.

**Topics for Next Meeting**

- Update on Data/Information requested for the February Meeting, but not Provided
- Provider Reimbursement Spreadsheet Report Out
- Dual Eligible Work Group/Proposed Budget Report Out
- Premium/Co-Pay Subcommittee Report
- Premium/Co-Pay Hardship Exemption Briefing -- DCF
- Health Care Reform/Catamount Update
- MAB Resolution on Medicaid Policy/Budgeting
- Child Integrated Services Briefing- Sue Schmidt

**Next Meeting**

**March 27, 2008**

**Time: 10:00 AM – 12:30PM**

**Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel – Montpelier, VT**