



**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2023**

Board Members Present:

✓	Jessa Barnard		Yacouba Jacob Bogre		Kelly Dougherty
✓	Lisa Draper		Mike Fisher	✓	Devon Green
✓	Dale Hackett		Rebecca Heintz	✓	Sharon Henault
✓	Jessica Jacobs		Gladys Konstantin	✓	Joan Lavoie
	Mary Kate Mohlman	✓	Kirsten Murphy	✓	Jamie Rainville
	Sarah Teel	✓	Julie Tessler	✓	Jason Williams

DVHA Staff Present:

	Zachary Goss	✓	Andrea DeLaBruere	✓	Adaline Strumolo
	Sandi Hoffman	✓	Jennifer Rotblatt	✓	Max Croneberger
✓	Sven Lindholm	✓	Molly Sweeney		Danielle Fuoco
✓	Katie Moino	✓	Ashley Berliner		

SOV/Other Attendees:

✓	Megan Tierney-Ward	✓	Betty Morse		Nicole DiStasio
	Dillon Burns		Keith Brunner	✓	Vicki Jessup
✓	Susan Aranoff		Wren Lansky		Rebecca Copans
	Anders Aughey		Timothy McSherry		Sara Teachout
✓	Wilda White	✓	Megan Fitzgerald	✓	Kathy Walker

Topic & Presenter	Discussion	Action
Meeting Materials	Posted to https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-	

	boards/medicaid-and-exchange-advisory-committee/agendas-and-materials MEAC_Agenda4.24.23.pdf MEAC_PPT_4.24.23.pdf	
1. Call to Order Sharon Henault & Jessa Barnard, Substitute Co-Chairs	Meeting was convened at 10:03 AM by Jessa Barnard.	
2. Roll Call Establish Quorum Approve Minutes Jennifer Rotblatt, Administrative Services Coordinator	Roll Call was completed by Jennifer Rotblatt. March 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.	Motion to approve 3/27/23 Minutes: Second: Abstain: Approved
3. 1115 Global Commitment Waiver Ashley Berliner, Director of Healthcare Policy & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Berliner started with the discussion of the Global Commitment to Health Waiver, giving updates on its progress. The renewal for the waiver was signed by CMS at the end of June 2022, and since that time a lot of progress has been made. • We have worked to expand coverage and eliminate income caps. • Expanded VPharm coverage to mirror Medicaid. • Expanded the coverage of the Dr. Dynasaur Program. • We are currently in the process of expanding dental coverage and taking advantage of the optional family plan coverage benefit. We have approved over 15 new home and community-based investments and selected a contractor to support the housing program. Work has started with an HMA contractor to implement home and community-based conflict of interest requirements. • Joan asked if the cap for income was going to be raised to 225% of FPL. • Ashley clarified that this was only for Vpharm and that the Medicaid cap remains unchanged. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kirsten Murphy, Executive Director of Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council, spoke about concerns with home and community based services. She previously commented on the need to comply with conflict-of-interest management and is excited to see progress made with that. She also applauded DVHA for work on dental coverage, which has been a burden on the community. She also expressed favor for the supportive housing developments, as the council has done work on housing.• Kirsten then commented on quality metrics, stating that there is a disconnect with the method AHS has selected. This also came up at the state program standing committee where members expressed concerns about using CAHPS instead of a more robust set of measures.• The council feels strongly that while it might be expedient to use the CAHPS survey, they strongly urge AHS to consider using National Core Indicators in the case of developmental disability services. The measures that are selected are going to important drivers in quality assurance and need to measure what matters. They feel that the CAHPS survey is more compliance based rather than an outcome measure. The National Core Indicators measure actual outcomes that are meaningful.• She expressed concern that the CAHPS survey questions were not written to be accessible, especially if the interview is done over the phone, as they rely heavily on memory and synthesize multiple questions together. This would not be accessible for those with developmental disabilities and the National Core Indicators phrase these questions in a more accessible way.• As providers are already burdened, it would be difficult to ask them to undertake two surveys.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessa asked if there would be any written updates on progress being made or if there would be timelines or charts provided. • Ashley stated that due to the complex nature of the working plan, it would be difficult to create a chart or dashboard to measure progress that would be easy to read. • Wilda asked about the plan to offer certified peer support in the waiver. • Ashley spoke on that, saying that we are working with the Division of Substance Use and Department of Mental Health to see how we can align on those programs. DMH has a faster timeline, and we can expect to hear about that in the next couple of months. 	
<p>4. CAHPS Survey</p> <p>Sandi Hoffman, Deputy Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandi Hoffman began the discussion on the CAHPS annual survey results. DVHA contracts with a nationally certified assurance vendor for this required reporting. DVHA uses a standard set of questions which are uploaded to a national database. Customized questions are also used for measuring satisfaction in specific areas. This subject was also presented last year where we asked for input on how to increase response rates. • In previous years we have seen a decrease in responses. It is recommended that we have at least 300 completed surveys, and this year we sent out 2145, receiving responses regarding 415 adults and 322 children back. To increase response rates, we were advised to create a QR code, and this may have been part of the reason for this year's increase. We are still working with the vendor on ways to improve response rates going forward. • In general, satisfaction was rated between 81-96% in areas of getting care quickly, getting needed care, customer service, and more. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year had the lowest self-reported rate since we started tracking tobacco use. There was an increase in smokers being advised to quit, but a decrease in discussion of cessation strategies. The DVHA quality director shared these results and discussions around providing more information and strategies to increase this rate are proceeding. • Regarding Telemedicine, there was a slight increase in satisfaction. For Mental Health, 22% of adults and 20% of children made appointments for treatment. Many also expressed difficulty with scheduling appointments and getting medicine as soon as it is needed. • These are measures we review annually, and the results will be used to discuss further intervention. 	
<p>5. Medicaid Renewal Status Update</p> <p>Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addie began the update for the ongoing renewal process. As it is a standing agenda item, time has been dedicated to feedback on it. We are focused on the current timeline to prevent procedural closures that will result in a loss of coverage. There are some closures that may take place sooner, such as pending applications that were received during the PHE that required more information. Additionally, those who voluntarily want to stop their coverage may also happen sooner. • We are also focused on coverage transitions. We have a lot of control over that regarding VHC. We are working with DFR to increase awareness in the employer community, as loss of Medicaid is a qualifying event to enroll in group coverage. We are looking for initial feedback on what would be helpful for this community. • Jessica Jacobs commented that employees are bringing in notices regarding losing Medicaid, and while it is good that the notices are being checked, some are confused regarding the status of their coverage. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addie responded that this feedback is helpful. It does mean that people are paying attention to the notices. • Jessa Barnard asked about call volumes and whether there were increases due to the notices. • Addie responded that we are definitely seeing responses and that call volume is steady. There was a situation with state websites that was much broader than DVHA which could have created problems, but the overall speed to answer and other metrics are steady. 	
<p>6. Commissioner's Office Update</p> <p>Andrea DeLaBruere, Commissioner Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea gave an update from the Commissioner's Office. There have been a lot of items in the media regarding the budget process. Related to Medicaid conversations, the 1150 Waiver gives an opportunity to remove caps on dental coverage and appears to be moving through. • The most recent draft of bill H494 is likely to arrive on the floor by the end of this week. Dental initiatives and government recommendations to increase Medicaid rates do appear to be unchanged in the current senate version. • There are still a number of topics unrelated to Medicaid that will have to be worked through. Other than that, there are items in the recommended senate version that are not in the governor's version, which will be points of discussion. There is a veto session scheduled for June that may or may not be needed to work on these issues. • Medicaid renewals will be the focus for the next 12-14 months. 	

<p>7. Public Comment</p> <p>Sharon Henault & Jessa Barnard, Substitute Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megan made a request for a future agenda item. DAIL is working on the Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well, which is part of the Older Vermonters Act requirement. In the next month or two they are planning to spread the word about this plan and this may be a good topic for future discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request for future agenda item, DALE is working on Vermont action plan for aging well, part of older Vermonters act requirement. Next month or two planning to spread the word about this plan. If interested, might be a good topic for this group and Megan would be happy to arrange for someone to come and present. 	
<p>8. Final Committee Discussion</p> <p>Sharon Henault & Jessa Barnard, Substitute Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon requested a discussion on Durable Medical Equipment (DMEs) for the next meeting. • Ashley stated that information on the chosen vendor will be sent in a follow-up email. 	
<p>9. Adjourn</p> <p>Sharon Henault & Jessa Barnard, Substitute Co-Chairs</p>	<p>The next meeting is May 22 2023.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM.</p>	<p>Medicaid and the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency webpage: https://dvha.vermont.gov/unwinding</p>