



**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes for May 22, 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	✓	Suellen Bottiggi		

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
			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_Agenda_5.22.23.pdf MEAC_PPT_4.24.23.pdf	
1. Call to Order Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs	Meeting was convened at 10:02 AM by Mary Kate Mohlman.	
2. Roll Call Establish Quorum Approve Minutes Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager	Roll Call was completed by Zack Goss. April 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.	Motion to approve 4/24/23 Minutes: Mike Fisher Second: Kirsten Murphy Abstain: Kelly Dougherty, Sarah Teel Approved
3. Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Suellen Bottiggi, Director of Member Provider Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suellen stated that DVHA is aware of the length of time that it is taking VT members to obtain durable medical equipment. Analysis has been done on availability of wheelchairs, wheelchair parts, incontinence supplies, lifts, and blood pressure monitors. • She mentioned that the provider look-up tool (http://www.vtmedicaid.com/#/providerLookup) is monitored and regularly updated. Some providers have been taken over by national providers and the transitions have been a challenge. • She compared the length of time to obtain a complex wheelchair pre-pandemic to post pandemic. • In 2018, average total of 154 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 85 days from therapist evaluation to receipt by DVHA, ○ 6 days for DVHA approval, and ○ 63 days for delivery from the DME provider. • In 2021, the average total was 152 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 70 days from therapist evaluation to receipt by DVHA, ○ 8 days for DVHA approval, and ○ 74 days for delivery from the DME provider. 	

- Suellen noted that the reduced time from therapist evaluation to the request for DVHA approval may reflect new provider staff and that DVHA's longer turnaround time includes requests that are in informational status while trying to obtain more information. The increased delivery time reflects supply shortages.
- She mentioned that the time between physician referral and therapist appointment was not tracked until 2020. In 2021, it took 53 days to schedule a therapist wheelchair evaluation, for a total of 205 days between doctor's order and delivery.
- In response to a question about what the member can do while they are waiting half a year, Suellen explained the option of loaner wheelchairs. It was noted that consumers are not being informed of that option and Suellen said that they would send out communication to vendors and therapists as well as consumers to educate them on the option.
- She said that DVHA's Clinical unit is working aggressively to expand the equipment recycling program which would increase availability of loaner wheelchairs.
- MEAC member brought up concerns that obtaining authorization for new parts is burdensome and questioned why prior authorization is needed for something that was already approved when the wheelchair was authorized. Suellen stated that she would bring this question back to Clinical to review the process.
- Discussion ensued on ordering parts online which can be faster but aren't covered unless they are a Medicaid-enrolled provider. Suellen requested that information for any recommended online vendors should be sent to DVHA so they can explore enrolling them.
- It was raised that members are concerned about upsetting their vendors and don't want to risk compromising the service they get now. Suellen encouraged members to reach out at

	<p>ahs.dvhamemberprovidersvc@vermont.gov if they are experiencing retaliation from vendors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The perception of retaliation was discussed, including the importance of communication addressing it and providing reassurance. • Suggestion was made to put together a subcommittee on this with MEAC members, Suellen, and DVHA clinical staff, others as appropriate which will be further discussed by the commissioner and co-chairs. • Suellen stated that DVHA meets with the DME Vendors on a quarterly basis and the last meeting May 9th. They have requested a list of DMEPOS items from the vendors so it can be posted. • DVHA just signed a sole source contract with ActivStyle for all Incontinence supplies and over the next 3 months will transition all members to ActivStyle for their incontinence supplies. 	
<p>4. Chair Appointment</p> <p>Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-year term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. One nominee from a prior meeting – Sharon Henault. Mary Kate opened it up for questions or additional nominations of which there were none. • The motion to appoint Sharon was approved. 	<p>Motion to appoint Sharon Henault as co-chair: Dale Hackett Seconded: Kirsten Murphy Approved</p>
<p>5. Medicaid Renewal Status Update</p> <p>Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addie noted that DVHA hasn't been through a full monthly renewal cycle yet. Starting next month there will be more complete data. • About 7200 MCA households in the renewal process this first cycle. About 5000 renewal notices went out as 30% of the 7200 were eligible for automatic renewal. 2200 have responded and there is a week and half left in the cycle before bulk closures occur. 	<p>Medicaid and the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency webpage: https://dvha.vermont.gov/unwinding</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This cycle has a higher non-eligibility rate. Those that are not eligible for Medicaid do not have a high rate of response as of now.. • Addie explained that they are reviewing the renewal notice to ensure language is clear that a response will help even if member is no longer eligible. • DVHA is looking into the possibility of a survey tool for those that are not moved into the exchange to see where they are ending up – on employer insurance, uninsured, other. • Jessa wondered about a claims analysis to see if members have been using the Medicaid coverage because the scenario is different for someone using it regularly versus not at all. • Discussion ensued on communication methods and ways of reaching people who aren't responding. Topics included reviewing if there was an easy way for someone to respond that they moved out of state, have employer insurance, or otherwise no plans to pursue coverage. • It was noted that there are certified assisters around the state to help people in person, as well. • Addie shared that exchange enrollment opportunities have been made as flexible as possible. If eligibility is intact, anyone who loses Medicaid for not responding can re-enroll at any time. Also, for those who are no longer eligible for Medicaid, the subsidies available are often better than people expect. • Zack encouraged members to use the Medicaid renewal website, https://dvha.vermont.gov/unwinding, which is being kept up to date and has a lot of information. 	
<p>6. Commissioner's Office Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea shared that DVHA has hired a new Chief Financial Officer, Stephanie Barrett, who is coming from the joint fiscal office in Legislature and started today. 	

<p>Andrea DeLaBruere, Commissioner Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea noted that DVHA is closely tracking budget discussions at the Federal legislature level. • State Legislature has adjourned and it's not clear when the budget bill will go to the Governor and if he will sign or veto. The veto session has been scheduled for June. • Discussion ensued. 	
<p>7. Public Comment Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
<p>8. Final Committee Discussion Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested future agenda topics: Assister role discussion, DME subcommittee consideration, Medicaid for children with disabilities and chronic conditions, reimbursement for dentists • Mike gave an update that the Qualified Health Plan rates have been filed. BCBSVT has asked for about 15% and MCP has asked for about 12:5% increases. He stated that they are encouraging public comments which are important to these discussions. • Jennifer mentioned that a number of members are up for reappointment and that emails have gone out to those affected. • Zack noted that there are vacancies on the committee and encouraged members to spread the word and share the online application, found at https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-exchange-advisory-committee/advisory-committee-members. There is a specific need for small businesses who use the exchange, but anyone is welcome to apply. 	<p>MEAC membership application: https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-exchange-advisory-committee/advisory-committee-members</p>
<p>9. Adjourn Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs</p>	<p>The next meeting is June 26, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.</p>	