



**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee (MEAC)  
Meeting Minutes for June 27, 2022**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**DVHA Staff Present:**

✓	Zachary Goss	✓	Andrea De La Bruere	✓	Adaline Strumolo
✓	Sandi Hoffman		Jennifer Rotblatt	✓	Max Croneberger
✓	Sven Lindholm	✓	Molly Sweeney	✓	Danielle Fuoco
✓	Malia Armstrong	✓	Ginger Irish	✓	Brendan Beaudoin

**SOV/Other Attendees:**

	Katie Smith	✓	Betty Morse		Tim Walker
	Bard Hill		Katie Kanelstein		Stefani Hartsfield
✓	Susan Aranoff		Marty Baker	✓	Rebecca Copans
	Michael Miller	✓	Jessica Jacobs		

Topic & Presenter	Discussion	Action
Meeting Materials	Posted to <a href="https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-">https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-</a>	

	<a href="#">exchange-advisory-committee/agendas-and-materials</a> MEAC 6_27_22 Agenda.pdf MEAC PPT 6_27_22.pdf	
<b>1. Call to Order</b>  Devon Green & Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs	Meeting was convened at 10:03 by Erin Maguire.	
<b>2. Roll Call</b> <b>Establish Quorum</b> <b>Approve Minutes</b>  Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager	<b>Motion:</b> Approve the May 23, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.  Roll Call was completed by Zack Goss. Meeting Minutes could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.	<b>Motion:</b> <b>Second:</b> <b>Abstain:</b> <b>Approved</b>
<b>3. Immigrant Health Insurance Plan (IHIP) Implementation Update</b>  Dani Fuoco, Health Care Assistant Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dani Fuoco gave an update on the Immigrant Health Insurance Plan. It will start on 7/1/2022. The web page includes information and the application, and a Google translate button is available. Information and PDFs to be posted will be available in English and Spanish, and the site will be continuously updated over the summer.</li> <li>• Information about IHIP was discussed by Dani; customers can apply through a Medicaid application, and by phone, mail, online, or with an Assister. There is a new IHIP application that can be sent by mail or through an Assister, not online or by phone. For pregnant people who use a 205ALLMED and are approved for Emergency Medicaid, the children born will be deemed Medicaid eligible. Babies born in the US will not be eligible for IHIP. Deemed newborns have 12 months of continuous Medicaid coverage in Vermont. Any pregnant person will get 12 months of postpartum coverage. IHIP will align operationally with Medicaid.</li> <li>• Verifications are different for IHIP. Per the confidentiality provision, the agency cannot share information about applicants or enrollees, and information must be verified by the application. There are covered service exclusions – Long-term</li> </ul>	

	<p>services and support (LTSS) and waiver services are not available under IHIP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dani included some questions and answers in her presentation. For those covered under SFY2022 Act 48 Grant Funding, transition coverage will be available. This population has received a letter and an IHIP application, and they can call to get a UID after July 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for claims prior to 7/1/2022 is 9/30/2022. Retroactive coverage is available, but not before July 1<sup>st</sup>. The application will be available in Spanish by July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Welcome to IHIP and IHIP Send Us Proof pamphlets have also been translated, and Spanish support is available online.</li><li>• The floor was opened for questions regarding IHIP. Dale Hackett asked for clarification on how non-English or Spanish speakers will interact with the service, and if the recent decision on Roe v. Wade will have any effects on the program. Dani responded that they are focused on Spanish language first, but other languages will be available. They heard from stakeholders that Spanish was important to the program, but interpreters for other languages are available from the member services phone line. As for the second question, IHIP mirrors Medicaid, and categorical eligibility is prescribed to pregnancy, and it does not matter how the pregnancy ends.</li><li>• Erin Maguire asked about stakeholder involvement in the process and requested information on the design of the implementation plan. Dani stated that part of Act 48 in 2022 funding went to provide grant funding for education and outreach. DVHA has issued two grants to two organizations – Migrant Justice and Milk with Dignity. Audio messaging in Spanish will be developed, and further outreach has been planned around other events. The outreach grant lasts until February of 2023. The Office of the Healthcare Advocate is also involved.</li></ul>	
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- Mike Fisher noted that the creation of IHIP was a lengthy and difficult process, and much effort was put into it. It will continue to take time and effort and estimates about who will be affected by it will need to be reviewed with actual participation data.
- Erin brought up the issues with developing programs for underserved communities and how the design of these programs should be created with their involvement and with them in mind. She recommends connecting with the Vermont Language Justice Project regarding developing materials outside of English and Spanish. A call was made to ask if there were any other committee members with recommendations for provider communication. Dani responded that they would look into the Vermont Language Justice Project, and Mike added that another group to mention is the South Royalton Legal Clinic.
- Erin brought up issue of finding people who need this coverage as opposed to waiting for them to seek it out and asked whether this was part of the process. Mike answered yes and said that Bridges to Health have been interacting with those who will be using this coverage. It is also important to note that these populations do not necessarily want to be seen, which makes it more difficult to reach them.
- Dani commented that the ideal process for IHIP is that a customer will go to see a doctor and that doctor will not be able to distinguish the difference between IHIP/Medicaid. Dale brought up other groups that have shied away from government programs due to the risk of being exposed, noting that it can be a sensitive issue. Dani noted that they will be looking at the anticipated number of applicants and the actual number. Implementation is still an ongoing process and more conversation on the topic is needed.

<p><b>4. Commissioner's Office Update</b></p> <p>Andrea De La Bruere, Commissioner Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrea De La Bruere introduced Ginger Irish, who will be assuming the role of Director of Communications in DVHA. Ginger brings a wealth of experience to the role. Six individuals have been renewed for their term on the board. Jessica Jacobs was introduced, representing the small business community.</li> <li>• Jessica introduced herself and noted her experience. She hopes to weigh in on how policy decisions may affect small business owners and is representing the broker community and their interests.</li> <li>• Andrea brought up an update on the 1115 waiver. It will be on the agenda for July, and they hope to have the new Waiver Demonstration signed by the end of June.</li> <li>• Addie Strumolo described the new income-based SEP. A press release will be issued this afternoon. Although the PHE Unwind is not happening yet, it is still a good opportunity for Vermonters to take advantage of the subsidies, and they did not want to delay opening the door.</li> <li>• Kirsten Murphy asked if the 1115 waiver will be posted when it is signed, to which Andrea responded that it would be. Mike asked about updates and materials for other committee members when it is signed, and Andrea said to look for updates by the end of the week.</li> <li>• Addie mentioned that they are continuing to advocate for ARPA subsidies that are set to expire at the end of the year and asked everyone to keep in touch with anyone in DC. Materials for doing so were requested by Erin, and Adaline responded that she would send some. Dale asked for clarification over what they should ask about and asked if inflation has been taken into consideration. He noted that he has been advocating with offices in DC to make sure it is being accounted for.</li> <li>• Zachary Goss stated that the committee would be receiving stakeholder communication from the team, including</li> </ul>	
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	<p>information about IHIP and the new SEP, as well as a high-level overview regarding the PHE. He hopes that this communication will tie things together and make it easy to share.</p>	
<p><b>5. Public Comment</b></p> <p>Devon Green &amp; Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no public comments made.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Final Committee Discussion</b></p> <p>Devon Green &amp; Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erin asked about the previous concerns brought up about reupping Medicaid. Mike said that the discussion has been effectively postponed along since the PHE is continuing. He noted that there is some political advocacy that may be scaring people, and it is not necessarily in line with what people will experience. Andrea added it to the agenda to be discussed next month. Mike asked if it is accurate to say that we will not be doing redeterminations before the end of the year, and Adaline noted that CMS has said the PHE will continue into the fall, and that informally there has been indication that it will continue into 2023.</li> <li>• Kirsten Murphy advocated for the agenda to include a deeper dive into home and community-based services. Erin stated that it would be added to the list and thanked the committee for the opportunity to lead and learn.</li> <li>• The next meeting will be on July 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting in August.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Adjourn</b></p> <p>Devon Green &amp; Erin Maguire, Co-Chairs</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am by Erin.</p>	<p><b>Additional about the Department's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency may be located here:</b> <a href="https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19">https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19</a></p>