



**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes for January 23, 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
	Ashley Berliner	✓	Suellen Bottiggi		Brendan Beaudoin

SOV/Other Attendees:

✓	Megan Tierney-Ward	✓	Betty Morse		Nicole DiStasio
✓	Ellen Schwartz	✓	Keith Brunner	✓	Vicki Jessup
	Susan Aranoff	✓	Wren Lansky	✓	Kate Paarlberg-Kvam
	Erika Wolffing		Tim Walker		Sara Teachout

Topic & Presenter	Discussion	Action
Meeting Materials	Posted to https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-exchange-advisory-committee/agendas-	

	and-materials MEAC_Agenda_1.23.23.pdf MEAC_PPT_1.23.23.pdf	
1. Call to Order Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs	Meeting was convened at 10:03 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. November 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.	Motion: Second: Abstain: Sarah Teel Approved
3. Dental Access Suellen Bottiggi, Director of Member Provider Services Andrea DeLaBruere, Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner DeLaBruere gave background on what DVHA has done the past several months outreaching to providers. • Suellen Bottiggi explained that it is well known that there is a dental crisis in Vermont. The Member Provider Services (MPS) team reached out to all Medicaid dental providers with a few questions: Are they accepting new patients? Current caseload of Medicaid members? What were the key issues that they were facing? • Three key issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. most general dentistry practices are not accepting new Medicaid, and many are near or at max capacity and not accepting any new patients. 2. rates 3. staffing (recent past/present) is a contributing problem for many practices (i.e. hygienists, dental assistants, etc) • Most providers are at capacity and not accepting new patients. • As outlined in the Governor’s Budget Priorities, an additional \$13 million dollars will be added to the dental budget effective July 1, 2023, though funding is ongoing. 	Future agenda item: Non-Emergency Transportation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suellen advised she would send Summary of Dental outreach to committee members. • The average current reimbursement is around 50% of Northeast Delta Dental rates and the increased budget will bring it to 75%. • Dental providers have been open to having this conversation and want to treat Medicaid members; this rate increase will help them to be able to do it financially. • Discussion on how to address emergency situations that go untreated due to dentist availability which is a question that DVHA will bring to the dental society. • In a discussion about the reasons for no-shows at appointments, it was brought up that DVHA is educating dental providers on support available to Medicaid members. One example of this is the non-emergency transportation program which providers share with members when they call in to cancel due to transportation issues. • Discussion ensued on the transportation program including the exception process and clarifying it for members. • Suellen stated that DVHA has a contract with Vermont Public Transportation Association; if members are not being dropped off at least 15 minutes before the appt and picked up within 1 hour after the appt then DVHA needs to know so it can be addressed. • Non-Emergency Medical Transportation information: https://dvha.vermont.gov/providers/non-emergency-medical-transportation 	
<p>4. PHE (Medicaid) Unwind</p> <p>Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner Molly Sweeney, Director of HAEEU Zack Goss, Health Care Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Commissioner Strumolo explained that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 was passed over the holidays. • The continuous coverage requirement has been decoupled from the PHE which means that even if the PHE is extended, Medicaid will begin the unwind starting in April. 	<p>Medicaid and the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency webpage: https://dvha.vermont.gov/unwinding</p>

<p>and Communication Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This process will now be called the Medicaid Unwind. • Zack presented sample communications and communication timeline for both direct (mail/text/email) and indirect (social media) customer contact. • Committee Call to Action – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage members to update contact information, pay attention to mail and other communications. ○ Stakeholders should share Stakeholder newsletter or information from it, report/share/retweet social media posts, provide quick links to Medicaid Unwind Website, use/share stakeholder toolkit, promote Medicaid unwind townhall on February 3. • Assisters are being prepared and will be trained specifically on the unwind. • If there are any other organizations that might want to receive the stakeholder communications, please let DVHA know. • Text messaging campaign has already begun for those who don't have updated mailing information and additional text outreach will go out to all beneficiaries soon that the change is coming. • Unwind process still expected to take 12-14 months. 	
<p>5. Commissioner's Office Update</p> <p>Andrea DeLaBruere, Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner DeLaBruere stated that there are a lot of new legislators and DVHA is spending time educating legislators individually and in the committees. • DVHA's SFY23 Budget adjustment request is for \$101.3 million. • Certain program reductions were necessary to remain budget neutral, including the Vermont Cost Sharing Reduction program. • Further discussion ensued on the proposed budget including that case load and utilization is a huge part of it. 	
<p>6. Public Comment</p> <p>Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no public comments made. 	

<p>7.Final Committee Discussion</p> <p>Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February agenda suggestion: Legislative Priorities for Committee Members 	
<p>8.Adjourn</p> <p>Mary Kate Mohlman & Dale Hackett, Co-Chairs</p>	<p>The next meeting is February 27, 2023.</p> <p>Lisa motioned to adjourn and Kelly seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM by Mary Kate Mohlman.</p>	<p>Additional about the Department's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency may be located here:</p> <p>https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19</p>