



**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2024**

Board Members Present:

✓	Neil Allen	✓	Jessa Barnard	✓	Kelly Dougherty
✓	Lisa Draper	✓	Mike Fisher	✓	Devon Green
✓	Cory Gustafson	✓	Dale Hackett	✓	Rebecca Heintz
✓	Sharon Henault		Jessica Jacobs	✓	Joan Lavoie
✓	Mary Kate Mohlman	✓	Kirsten Murphy		Wendy Rogers
✓	Laurel Sanborn		Stacy Weinberger		

DVHA Staff Present:

✓	Zachary Goss	✓	Adaline Strumolo	✓	Sandi Hoffman
✓	Alex McCracken	✓	Jennifer Rotblatt		Alicia Cooper
✓	Sven Lindholm	✓	Dani Fuoco		Christine Ryan
	Stephanie Barrett		Max Croneberger		

SOV/Other Attendees:

✓	Monica Ogelby		Megan Tierney-Ward		Betty Morse
	Pat Jones	✓	Nicole DiStasio	✓	Tim Walker
	Susan Aranoff	✓	Kathy Walker		Michael Miller
	Timothy McSherry		Rebecca Copans	✓	Scott Cerreta
	Vicki Jessup		Tom Perkins	✓	Wilda White

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

	and-exchange-advisory-committee/agendas-and-materials 4.22.24-MEAC-Agenda.pdf MEAC-PPT-4.22.24.pdf	
1. Call to Order Mary Kate Mohlman & Sharon Henault, Co-Chairs	Meeting was convened at 10:0 AM.	
2. Roll Call Establish Quorum Approve Minutes Zack Goss, Director of Customer Communication	Motion: Approve the April 22, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Minutes approved.	Motion: Lisa Draper Second: Rebecca Heintz Abstain: Kelly Dougherty, Laurel Sanborn Minutes Approved
3. Legislative wrap-up Alex McCracken, Director of Communications & Legislative Affairs (DVHA) Dani Fuoco, Senior Policy and Implementation Analyst (DVHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislative session wrapped up on May 10. • Alex noted that, generally, the bills and topics that DVHA testified on this session had a focus on access and affordability for Vermonters. • He provided an overview of the bills that passed both chambers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S.98, S.183, H.233, H.622, H.766, H.883 • He also noted the bills/acts that have already been signed by the governor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S.109 (Act 97), H.621 (Act 94), H.741 (Act 95), H.861 • Alex noted that H.721 (Medicaid expansion) did not pass the Senate Finance Committee; however, some of the language from it was included in the state budget bill, H. 883. • H.883 includes one time appropriations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Global Hospital Payment Pilot Program (\$9.2m Global Commitment Fund) ○ Technical analysis of health insurance marketplace (\$150k General Fund) ○ Implementation of MSP expansion (\$100k General Fund) • Cory asked what the technical analysis of the insurance marketplace would cover. Addie explained that it is looking at 	

whether to keep the market unmerged, in light of potential subsidy expiration in 2026, or to remerge them. The analysis is due January 15, 2025.

- H.883 also includes:
 - Report on payment methodology for nonemergency medical transportation for 2025 BAA.
 - Special education school-based Medicaid services funding
 - Dr. Dynasaur premium suspension
 - Technical Analyses: insurance marketplace and rate analysis
 - ABLE Accounts
 - Estate recovery/probate timeline
 - MSP Expansion & VPharm
- It was clarified that the ABLE accounts change limits the recapture of funds for beneficiaries that die. It does not affect eligibility.
- Estate recovery/probate timeline establishes a time frame for claims to be made on an estate.
- Alex provided more information on the bills that passed both chambers, including action items for DVHA.
- Implementation of legislative actions:
 - MSP Expansion
 - Global Hospital Payment Program.
- Studies and reports that DVHA will perform/contribute to:
 - Doula payment methodologies
 - Insurance marketplace analysis
 - Rate analysis
 - Non-emergency medical transportation
 - Future of VPharm
- Dani gave an overview of what the MSP expansion looks like:
 - Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program eligibility raised from 100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 145% FPL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) program subsumed by QMB (effectively eliminated) ○ Qualifying Individual (QI-1) program eligibility raised from 135% FPL to 190% FPL ● Due to this expansion the legislature has requested recommendations on the future of the VPHARM program. ● There are three tiers of VPHARM which each require a monthly premium and is based on income level. ● Mary Kate noted that the below motion was passed by this committee in December related to this bill. <p>The Medicaid Exchange and Advisory Committee recommends that the Dept. Of Vermont Health Access work with the Vermont Legislature to increase the income eligibility threshold for the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) to improve affordability and access to care for Vermonters on Medicare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dale said that while this expansion is great, there are other concerns facing older Vermonters that he doesn't want lost. 	
<p>4. Co-Chair Vote</p> <p>Mary Kate Mohlman & Sharon Henault, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nomination made by Mary Kate: Cory Gustafson ● There were not additional nominations. 	<p>Motion to elect Cory Gustafson as MEAC co-chair for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2024: Mary Kate Mohlman Second: Mike Fisher Approved</p>
<p>5. MEAC Budget Letter Draft review</p> <p>Mary Kate Mohlman & Sharon Henault, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subcommittee met and discussed. ● In previous years this letter was submitted in October/November, and it was decided to back up the timeline so that DVHA receives the letter as the discussions begin for the next fiscal year budget. ● Review draft for feedback today and finalize for a vote at June's meeting. 	<p>Subcommittee will reconvene to revise this draft and send to members for further review.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Kate noted that the subcommittee discussed FY26 priorities, keeping in mind that if all priorities are included then there would be no priorities. • She explained that the letter is formatted to list the core principles and then priorities within these principles. • She emphasized that MEAC is advisory and the letter is written with that in mind. • Should this go to Medicaid Director or DVHA Commissioner? Decision was made to address it to both. • Suggestion was made to narrow priorities more to increase the impact of the letter and discussion ensued. 	
<p>6. Medicaid Renewals/ Disenrollment Survey</p> <p>Adaline Strumolo, Acting Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addie stated that website dashboards are up to date. • She explained that due to an operational issue in April in which notices of decision were not sent to certain Medicaid members, their coverage was extended a month due to allow for proper notice. • CMS announced that eligibility flexibilities that they released during the unwind period were extended from the end of 2024 to June 30, 2025. This allows more time before needing to discuss long term policy on some of these. • Addie presented renewal volume for the next year compared to the renewal numbers during the unwind. • When someone loses coverage, it's not the end of the story and DVHA has been trying to stay in touch. One unscientific way is through the Medicaid Renewal Restart Disenrollment Survey. • Zack explained that one purpose of the survey is to better understand the outcome for those whose coverage were ended. • He noted that only the Medicaid for Children and Adults population received the survey and it was sent out by email and text which not all former members have on file. • Surveys were sent about 45 days after the coverage end date in three attempts – first by email and then by text, with a trigger to not send reminders when survey was completed. 	<p>Renewal Dashboards Department of Vermont Health Access</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey has received 1112 total responses as of 5/15/24 which represents about 5.4% of those who were contacted. • 63% of respondents reported having health insurance. • Those who reported not having health insurance were less aware of their health insurance options. • Almost 50% of those who have health insurance are receiving it through their jobs. • Of those without health insurance, primary reasons reported were 'too expensive' and 'I didn't know my coverage was ending'. • Discussion ensued. 	
7. Commissioner's Office Update Adaline Strumolo, Acting Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final CMS rules governing this committee were released and will be discussed further at the next meeting. 	
8. Public Comment Mary Kate Mohlman & Sharon Henault, Co-Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
9. Final Committee Discussion Mary Kate Mohlman & Sharon Henault, Co-Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	MEAC member application: Advisory Committee Members Department of Vermont Health Access
10. Adjourn Mary Kate Mohlman & Sharon Henault, Co-Chairs	Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM Next meeting June 24, 2024.	