



**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Meeting Minutes for June 24, 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
✓	Emma Zavez		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 6.24.24-MEAC-Agenda.pdf MEAC-PPT-6.24.24.pdf	
1. Call to Order Sharon Henault, Co-Chair	Meeting was convened at 10:04 AM.	
2. Roll Call Establish Quorum Approve Minutes Zack Goss, Director of Customer Communication	Motion: Approve the May 20, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Minutes were not approved as quorum was not met	Motion: Jessa Barnard Second: Dale Hackett Abstain: Jessica Jacobs, Stacy Weinberger Quorum not met, minutes were not approved.
3. Health Benefits Eligibility and Enrollment (HBEE) Rules Revisions Dani Fuoco, Senior Policy and Implementation Analyst (DVHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dani explained that the HBEE provides eligibility standards for Medicaid and other health care programs. This year rulemaking will affect Parts 2, 3, and 7 of this 8 part rule. • She noted that some rule changes are federally required and others are making permanent policies that had been enacted during the unwinding of the continuous coverage requirements in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). • She reviewed the revisions by HBEE part including if the change was in effect now and if it was unwinding related. • Discussion on what the automatic QMB enrollment for SSI recipients looks like. Dani explained that SSI recipients are eligible for QMB and this guarantees that they receive it. • Addie said that the removal of the interview requirement for Long Term Care (LTC) Medicaid is a big change and is expected to have a significant impact. It was removed at the beginning of this month ahead of the HBEE rulemaking. • Dani shared the tentative timeline for this process beginning with filing the rule by August 30, 2024 and projecting an effective date of January 1, 2025. 	

4. Silver Loading/ OE25 planning

Adaline Strumolo, Acting
Commissioner
Zack Goss, Director of
Customer Communication

- Addie explained that changes are coming to open enrollment for 2025 related to the plan levels and how members are mapped. Mapping is when a member is given a default plan selection for the next plan year that is different than their existing plan. This can be adjusted by the member to any other plan.
- In 2017, the federal administration stopped paying for federal cost-sharing subsidies without removing the requirement to pay for them. Cost share reduction (CSR) automatically show up in the plans that come up for eligible members.
- As an alternative method to pay for the benefit, states started pricing silver plans higher which results in additional premium subsidies. This is called silver loading.
- Addie noted that reflective silver plans available for direct enrollment with insurers don't have the extra cost.
- The Green Mountain Care Board has implemented enhanced silver loading for 2025. Because of this change, silver premiums will be higher than gold plan premiums this open enrollment. This increases access to subsidies and many Vermonters will be able to enroll in better plans than they have now for a lower cost.
- The goal is to support those silver plan members who would be paying more in 2025 for a less generous plan by mapping them to gold plans. The default for the system previously would be to enroll the member in the same plan in which they are currently enrolled; however, the system will be updated to offer the more generous gold plan if it is a lower premium than their current silver plan.
- This requires a change in messaging as DVHA will encourage members to shop the plans and make the increased subsidies work best for their families.
- It was noted that, based on current enrollment totals, just under 6,000 silver enrollees will be mapped to gold plans.
- Cory stated that it's important to consider how this will make care more affordable in out-of-pocket costs for the members.
- Idea for DVHA to create a fact sheet for providers that presents the data to show what the increase in subsidies is that is coming into Vermont.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question was asked: How will the mapping be done to inform Vermonters what is happening with their plan and why? Communication will be simple and clear: more subsidies are available this year. • Mike mentioned that the Green Mountain Care Board’s actuarial analysis of this change showed a \$40 million increase in buying power for Vermonters towards health coverage. He noted that buying power is not affordability. • Discussion ensued on affordability of insurance. • Zack reviewed the initial communications plan for these changes. • Key messages are that more subsidies are available for 2025 and customers are encouraged to shop the marketplace, looking at higher levels of coverage. • He reviewed the mediums that are used for communications, both general such as social media and targeted such as mailed notices and emails. • Zack reviewed the timeline, beginning with message alignment that has already begun, through open enrollment which ends January 15. • Communications will be designed to inform Vermonters about the changes and empower Vermonters to make informed decisions. 	
<p>5.MEAC Budget Letter review and vote.</p> <p>Jessa Barnard & Mike Fisher, Subcommittee Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessa explained that this draft took the feedback from the last meeting and opened for feedback. • Vote could not be completed without the quorum, and it was discussed if the vote could be conducted via email. • DVHA Legal will be consulted. 	<p>Vote could not be called due to lack of quorum.</p>
<p>6.Commissioner’s Office Update</p> <p>Adaline Strumolo, Acting Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addie gave an overview of the recently released CMS rule that makes changes to the Medicaid Advisory Committee and establishes a beneficiary advisory committee, effective July 1, 2025. • We are in the process of putting a plan in place and will be engaging with MEAC. It is expected that one of the biggest obstacles will be recruitment. • Kirsten noted that Developmental Disability Councils have been encouraged to partner with state agencies and she offered support in recruiting members. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion ensued. 	
7. Medicaid Director Update Monica Ogelby, Medicaid Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica provided an updated on the waiver amendment request. AHS has heard from CMS that due to their staffing and capacity to review waivers, they will not review Vermont's request in 2024. • Staff have been working with CMS and meeting with the national federation as well as coordinating with Medicaid Directors to determine next steps in moving forward. The requests made are straightforward with precedence in other states and the hope is that it can be pushed sooner. • She noted that the justice re-entry waiver amendment request is being considered separately from the other request and is expected to receive a response July 1. • She welcomed feedback from committee members if there are items they want covered in future updates. 	
8. Public Comment Sharon Henault, Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
9. Final Committee Discussion Sharon Henault, Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessa noted that the previous and current budget letter should be referenced in determining agenda items. Discussion ensued in agreement. • Kirsten suggested an agenda item on ADA, section 504 regarding accessibility in medical settings and what the provider community is doing to address it. 	MEAC member application: Advisory Committee Members Department of Vermont Health Access
10. Adjourn Sharon Henault, Co-Chair	Meeting adjourned at 11:40 PM Next meeting July 22, 2024.	