

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)
October 18, 2021
Minutes

Members Present: Kathy Bates, Sai Cherala, Lisa DiMartino, Tamme Dustin, Paula Minnehan, Sarah Morrison, Ken Norton, Ronnieann Rakoski, Bill Rider, Karen Rosenberg, Jonathan Routhier, Holly Stevens, Kristine Stoddard, Carolyn Virtue, Michelle Winchester

Alternates: Jake Berry, Cheryl Steinberg, Nichole VonDette

DHHS: Henry Lipman, Alyssa Cohen, Brooke Belanger, Nancy Rollins, Dr. Sarah Finne, Dawn Landry, Leslie Melby, Janine Corbett, Nancy Plourde, Laura Ringelberg, Leslie Bartlett, Shirley Iacopino, Deb Sorli, Patrick McGowan

Guests: Lucy Hodder, Deb Fournier, Kelley Capuchino, Nick Toumpas, Susan Paschell, Lisa Pettengill, Nicole St. Hillaire, Rich Sigel, Tina McKernan, Heidi Kroll, Jasmine Harris, Deb Ritcey, Josh Kintzman, Karen Blake, Jesse Fennelly, Rachel Chumbley, Tommy Whalen

Announcement:

Carolyn Virtue announced the passing of General Colin Powell and read the following into the record:

This morning we lost a great American, General Colin Powell.

Immediately after hearing this news report on TV, that he had succumbed to COVID-19, the discussion turned to his vaccination status.

In August my husband was on a ventilator for 23 days. I can count on one hand the number of people who reached out and did not ask "Was he vaccinated?" I should mention, Director Lipman was one of them, thank you.

Within the first few minutes after his death, the media frenzy about Powell's vaccination status raged. Aside from being what he was to this country, General Powell was a husband and father. At their moment of loss this family felt it important to let the world know he was fully vaccinated at Walter Reed.

Powell had accolades few others ever attain. I am glad the conversation can now move on to the story of his life of public service. I'd ask you to consider, had he not been vaccinated, would the story have turned to his achievements as quickly?

While I fully support a concerted effort to vaccinate, I do not think we will get there by shaming people who have made individual decisions in regard to their medical care. We need to reframe the vaccination discussion away from shaming. We need to be kinder.

Thank you for your consideration.

Review/Approval: September 13, 2021 minutes

M/S/A

Agenda Items - November 8, 2021

- Update on FMAP proposal

Members may send agenda requests to Henry Lipman or Carolyn Virtue.

Public Health Emergency

Unwind Planning - Next Steps, Lucy Hodder, Deb Fournier, UNH Health Law & Policy

UNH continues to work with the DHHS team to prepare for the end of the PHE. DHHS is updating and streamlining the beneficiary pink letters. Support provided to beneficiaries during the Public Health Emergency (PHE) now to complete their redeterminations will reduce backlog at the end of the PHE and minimize potential coverage gaps. The Department can give providers lists of their clients at risk of losing their coverage at the end of the PHE so that the providers can do direct outreach. Providers can obtain a

list of their clients at risk of losing coverage by using the email at ContinuedCoverage@dhhs.nh.gov.

Open enrollment for marketplace health insurance plans begins Nov 1. DHHS is reaching out to the New Hampshire Navigators and the Insurance Department to ensure clear communication about and assistance with transition to the marketplace plans to those who will no longer be eligible for Medicaid at the end of the PHE. DHHS is scheduled to meet with the MCOs this week to discuss their plans to support redetermination efforts. DHHS call center coverage for redeterminations will transition to Maximus to assist with managing the redetermination process and beneficiary questions.

SUD 1115 Waiver Award Forum, Alyssa Cohen, Deputy Medicaid Director

The annual post award forum provides an update of waiver activity over the past year.

The waiver allows the State to draw down Medicaid matching funds for residential SUD treatment to Medicaid-eligible individuals aged 21-64 in an IMD (Institute of Mental Disease). States need an 1115 waiver to use Medicaid funding for this population. CMS approved (1) the waiver July 2018, (2) the evaluation plan March 2019, and (3) the budget neutrality amendment June 2021. The Serious Mental Illness (SMI) amendment to the SUD waiver was submitted Sept 2021.

Future waiver deliverables include:

2021: mid-point assessment; quarterly and annual reports; annual post-award forum.

2022: SMI amendment implementation 7/1/22; quarterly and annual reports; evaluation report; renewal request

2023: SUD and SMI waiver end 6/30/23; quarterly and annual reports until then

2024: draft evaluation report due December

2025: final evaluation report due March

Next steps: respond to mid-point assessment; prepare for SMI implementation; ongoing data collection, and analysis of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The federal comment period ends Oct 21, 2021.

Department Updates, Henry Lipman, Medicaid Director

Disability Determinations, Deb Sorli, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Family Assistance

As of Sept 24, 2021:

- Pending applications: 227 adults (180 have Medicaid coverage); 29 children (14 have Medicaid)
- Over 90 days: 37 adults; (31 have Medicaid); 1 child (no Medicaid).

Enrollment

As of October 11, 2021, 229,400 individuals were on Medicaid (29.3 increase) of which 81,652 are on Granite Advantage (59% increase), and 147,748 are on standard Medicaid (17.2% increase).

DHHS Budget/HB2 Implementation Updates

The genetic testing rate increase is on track for November; Nursing home rate update is on track for 10/1/21 update; a second rate update is scheduled for January.

The Medicaid home visiting rules are currently with the Department's Administrative Rules Unit and on schedule for the February 2022 JLCAR meeting.

HCBS spending plan for enhanced federal percentage: At the end of September, DHHS received partial approval from CMS for the spending plan. Most states received partial approval on their plans.

DHHS had a technical assistance call with CMS on Oct 15. The CMS 64 reporting just became available last week, so, states have just been able to begin drawing the enhanced federal match. CMS shared with NH, that the state is no further behind any other state in being able to claim or spend funds. An update will be provided at the Nov. meeting.

Bureau of Developmental Services Direct Billing & Rate Subcommittee Cancellation, Nancy Rollins, Interim Director, DLTSS

BDS has engaged stakeholders on the corrective action plan (CAP) required by CMS due to conflicted case management practices. This work has positioned the state well to set the base approach to remove conflict and come into compliance with federal regulations that govern 1915(c) waiver services. The CAP stakeholder group was emailed on 7/1/21 to inform them that work was being placed on hold as BDS identified how it would address previously developed stakeholder groups under the context of accepting the recommendations put forth in the A&M report.

Given the relationship of the CAP with the work being undertaken related to the waiver, rates and IT development, BDS decided to not restart the CAP and Rates stakeholder groups due to duplication. The stakeholders' previous work was significant and serves as building block for the work of A&M. The work was therefore subsumed under A&M's work.

There are three new targeted workgroups to advise BDS that met in October: Waiver, Rates, and Steering. Updates are posted on the [BDS System Work website](#). *Web address was emailed to MCAC 10/18/21.*

Closed Loop Referral System(s) (CLR)

DHHS met with the Legislative HHS Oversight Committee 9/24/21 on specific areas related to PFI analysis. On Oct 22, Rep. Edwards and Sen. Rosenwald will speak to the Committee as to how NH should move on CLR. The HHS Oversight Committee will submit its report by November, which will serve as the basis for potential legislation.

MCAC Subcommittees, Carolyn Virtue, Chair

Membership Committee, Jonathan Routhier, Vice Chair

There are two open seats on the MCAC. MacKenzie Nicholson of the Alzheimer's Association has applied for membership. The Committee approved the application and sent to Henry Lipman for approval. For the other vacancy, applications should be submitted to Leslie Melby.

He-E 801, CFI, Michelle Winchester

There is no new information on the rule.

Nancy Rollins informed the members that the policy group has responded to 100 pages of stakeholder feedback; the rule is currently under review.

Dental

The committee working on HB 103 will meet today. The committee is working to develop legislation with the correct funding. An update will be provided at the November meeting.

Closed Loop Referral and Blanket Consent Subcommittee(s)

The legislative HHS Oversight Committee will meet October 22nd. Subcommittee members will be updated.

Motion to adjourn. M/S/A