

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

August 14, 2023

Minutes

Members: Lisa Adams, Kathy Bates, Jake Berry, Kelley Capuchino, Joan Fitzgerald, Ellen Keith, Paula Minnehan, Kara Nickulas, Karen Rosenberg, Rhonda Siegel, Lisabritt Solsky Stevens, Holly Stevens, Carolyn Virtue, Elinor Wozniakowski, Kathy Corey-Fox

Alternates: Brooke Belanger, Amy Girouard, Emily Johnson, Cheryl Steinberg, Nichole VonDette, Jim Zibailo

Excused: N/A

DHHS: Julie Beals, David Chorney, Vernon Clough, Jody Farwell, Krysten Finefrock, Sarah Finne, Jill Fournier, Jessica Gorton, Shirley Iacopino, Sara Lacharite, Jillian Landry, Henry Lipman, Olivia May, Jordon McCormick, Erin Metcalf, Melissa Nemeth, Carolyn Richards, Laura Ringelberg, Dawn Tierney

Guests: Marcia Bagley, Matthew Baker, Gina Balkus Home Care, Hospice, PC Alliance, Krystal Chase, Debbie Chotkevys, Rachel Chumbley, Sara Cleveland, Jebb Curelon, Cheryl Frey, Brook Holton, Natalie Honeycutt, Vicki Jessup, Lisa Kazakis, Josh Krintzman, Heidi Kroll Gallagher, Trina Loughery, Lindsey Magee, Laura McIntyre, Mike Miller, Amy Pidhurney, Deborah Ritcey, Conor Sairese Laing, Richard Sigel, Erica Skianes, Kurt Strohmeyer, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre NH DD Council, Vanessa, Ginny R.,

10:00-10:05

Introductions/Announcements Holly Stevens, Chair

- The Division for Medicaid Services introduced the new Deputy Medicaid Director David Chorney.

10:05-10:10

Review/Approval: July 17, 2023 Minutes Holly Stevens, Chair

- The minutes are approved with the following requested edits:
 - Spell out all abbreviations.
 - Update wording reflecting that Carolyn Virtue made a motion to expand the rule subcommittee.
 - Remove Doreen Shockley as she was not in attendance.
- The MCAC requested a list of rules that were pending or recently approved with the date MCAC heard them, the schedule going forward, the date they were approved, and any Bureau of Developmental Services related rules. The Department will update the summary already provided to include requested detail.

10:10-10:15

Agenda Items – September 11, 2023 Members

- Lisabritt Solsky Stevens requested the Department share information on service denial rates in the Medicaid Managed Care program, based on a report from Kaiser Family Foundation covering a federal study on Medicaid Managed Care Organization service authorization denials.

10:15-10:20

MCAC Membership Updates Carolyn Virtue, Vice-Chair

- Community Support Network, Inc., an organizational member, has requested change in representation on MCAC. Marissa Berg will be the member and Ellen McMahon will be the alternate.
- Carolyn Virtue is reaching out to all members on their potential eligibility for the Beneficiary Advisory Group proposed by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in a recent proposed rule.

10:20-10:30

Medicaid Care Management Reprocurement Update & Feedback Henry Lipman, Medicaid Director

- Henry opened the floor for follow up questions or concerns from the MCAC, noting that the public comment period ends on August 25th.
- Lisabritt Solsky asked if there was feedback received about primary care requirements in the model contract. Henry Lipman responded that the Department did outreach and had engagement with primary care provider representatives in planning the reprocurement and had received limited comments in the public sessions thus far.

10:30-10:45

He-M 507: Community Participation Services, He-M 522: Eligibility & the Process of Providing Services for Individuals with an Acquired Brain Disorder, and He-M 1001: Certification Standards for Developmental Services Community Residences, Melissa Nemeth, Bureau of Developmental Services

Melissa Nemeth presented:

- The Bureau of Developmental Services has been through many changes. He-M 507 for community participation expires on October 23rd. All three rules, He-M 504, 507, and 1001, have gone out for informal commentary from other stakeholders. These are drafts that the department has created based on feedback from stakeholders. Initial proposals have not been finalized.
- He-M 1001 is not set to expire but because it contains many components of certification it makes sense to look at these two rules together. Melissa Nemeth's comments are largely unchanged and there are some updated definitions and aligning of language with other rules. He-M 504 has been adopted so some changes serve to align with He-M 504. There are staff and provider qualifications that were in these rules but are now in 504 so now these rules only reference 504.
- Kelly Capuchino asked if we aligned with other rules for certification of community residences. Melissa Nemeth stated that for the certification requirements, we relied on Office of Legal Services. Kelly Capuchino mentioned that previously she has had experiences with seeking waivers of rules and encountering confusion with rules. Whenever we can create consistencies across the rules that is helpful.
- Carolyn Virtue asked to clarify why Melissa Nemeth had said He-M 504 was approved. Melissa Nemeth stated that the emergency rule was adopted. Carolyn Virtue asked it be noted that the emergency rule was not adopted through a process with public comment, and the rule will expire in December. Therefore other rules should not be promulgated based on the emergency rule. Melissa Nemeth stated that the Department is working through the process to get the full He-M 504 completed. If there are rule changes in the He-M 504 rule, those changes will be incorporated into other rules.
- Carolyn Virtue asked if MCAC has seen the He-M 504 proposed rule. Melissa Nemeth confirmed this was presented last month.
 - Carolyn Virtue made a motion to add these three rules to the existing subcommittee. This includes 507, 522, and 1001.
 - Kelly Capuchino raised that 1001 is not a Medicaid rule. Henry noted the

Department will not weigh in on whether the rule be included in the subcommittee.

- Carolyn Virtue's motion passed.
 - Lisabritt Solsky Stevens will serve as Subcommittee chair. There was discussion during the last meeting why the Disability Rights Center was not involved. Stephanie Patrick of Disability Rights Center will be joining the Subcommittee. Marissa Berg is taking Ellen McMahon's place. Kelly Capuchino is on the Subcommittee.
- He-M 522: Eligibility & the Process of Providing Services for Individuals with an Acquired Brain Disorder
 - Largely mirrors He-M503 which has already been brought to MCAC. Many of the changes were made to come into alignment with what Department submitted as initially proposed for He-M 503.
 - Karen Rosenberg asked why injury has to occur for an individual be eligible for the Acquired Brain Disorder waiver.
 - Krystal Chase of the Brain Injury Association confirmed that after age 60 it is difficult to tell if cognitive impairment is due to injury or aging.
 - Karen Rosenberg voiced a question as to whether this could be changed in the future.

10:45-11:30

2022 NH External Quality Review Technical Report Natalie A. Honeycutt, MHA/Ed, BHSA, RN
Associate Director, State & Corporate Services
Health Services Advisory Group, Inc.

- States are required to have an External Quality Review Organization contracted to perform reviews of the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations. Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) has been New Hampshire's EQRO since the start of the Medicaid Care Management program.
- Natalie presented the slides provided along with the meeting materials.
- The MCAC requested additional information on the qualitative studies and the demographics about respondents who say they are accepting new patients in provider access secret shopper surveys.
- A follow up presentation will be included in the next MCAC.

11:30-11:50

End of Continuous Coverage Requirement: Medicaid Unwind Henry Lipman, Medicaid Director,

- The Department posts information on Medicaid Unwind at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/reports-regulations-statistics/data-reports/medicaid-unwinding-data>

- Henry Lipman presented on the Department's overall strategy, supplemental outreach to beneficiaries being conducted through Medicaid team, the upcoming redetermination of the more vulnerable populations, and cumulative closure reasons.
- Reviewed closure reasons and re-openings by month and well as renewal rates and referrals to the federally-facilitated marketplace, which are available in the slides posted online.
- The Department will have better insight into Exchange coverage of those losing Medicaid coverage next month.

11:50-12:00

Department Updates

- Time permitted a brief update from Dr. Sarah Finne on the adult dental program and upcoming mobile dental van dates.