

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

November 13, 2023

Minutes

Members: Lisa Adams, Michael Auerbach, Kathy Bates, Marissa Berg, Jake Berry, Kelley Capuchino, Tamme Dustin, Joan Fitzgerald, Dawn McKinney, Kara Nickulas, Karen Rosenberg, Rhonda Siegel, Holly Stevens (Chair), Kristine Stoddard, Brendan Williams

Alternates: Brooke Belanger, Deodonne Bhattarai, Karen Blake, Amy Girouard, Emily Johnson, Nichole VonDette

Excused: Lisabritt Solsky Stevens, Carolyn Virtue

DHHS: Wendi Aultman, Scott Beckwith, Robert Berry, Margaret Clifford, Lise Farrand, Krysten Finefrock, Sarah Finne, Shirley Iacopino, Sara Lacharite, Jillian Landry, Jordan McCormick, Catrina Rantala, Carolyn Richards, Laura Ringelberg, Dawn Tierney

Guests: Lisa Beaudoin, Sara Cleveland, Deboarh Fournier, Kathy Fox, Kelly George, Rob Hockmuth, Brooke Holton, Kristina Ickes, Krystyl Jenkins, Lisa Kazakis, Bill Keena, Josh Krintzman, Heidi Kroll Gallagher, Debra Lang, Trina Loughery, Lindsey Magee, Laura McIntyre, Mike Miller, Lisa Pettengill, Ann Protoczak, Jena Rutter, Richard Sigel, Erica Skianes, Erin Sopinsky, Nicole St. Hilaire Murphy, Nick Toumpas, Ginny R.; Home Care, Hospice, PC, NH Council on Developmental Disability

Review/Approval: October, 2023 Minutes

Approval of the October 2023 minutes was tabled for the December 2023 meeting pending review of the below:

- Joan Fitzgerald asked her comments be changed to represent only Dental Hygienists.
- Rhonda Seigel would like to note that she is not the representative of the Department of Public Health. She serves on MCAC representing Title V and Maternal/Child Health and not Public Health.
- Update on MCAC Subcommittee: Deodonne Bhattarai noted that minutes incorrectly state that she was not able to attend the subcommittee meeting.
- All comments will be reflected in the next version of the minutes.

Agenda Items – December 11, 2023

- Kelley Capuchino asked for a broader update on the transition in the Bureau for Developmental Services for prior authorizations from area agencies to all the other providers. Kelley shared knowledge of clients with authorization challenges. Kelley asked for clarification on what prior authorizations are under area agencies and what is under other providers.
- Jordan McCormick advised that the Department could provide an update on this next month or address in follow up from the meeting.

Legislative Updates

- Rob Berry, Medicaid General Counsel, stated that the legislature is in the very early stages of the next legislative session. The legislature is disposing of bills that had been retained from the previous session, many were retained and incorporated into House Bill 2 which make their continued presence unnecessary.
- Rob states that he will be publishing the list of Legislative Service Requests for the upcoming session, right now the Department only has access to titles. At this time, the Department has knowledge of some language through the fiscal note process, but has not seen most of the fiscal notes.
- Rob Berry states that there are well over 800 Legislative Service Requests and about 80 that the Department is reviewing closely.
- Rob Berry will continue to provide updates and offered to put together a list of the Legislative Service Requests for the members of MCAC.
- Rob stated that the legislative language will become public when it becomes published (introduced into the legislative body) in January.
- Joan Fitzgerald requested the list of titles and Rob Berry will provide them when available.
- Holly Stevens asked if Rob Berry can provide an update on the bills that the Department is asking the legislature to put forward. Rob stated he cannot provide additional information on the bills the Department has put forward yet, but likely in January can do so.

Serious Mental Illness/Substance Use Disorder Waiver

- Carolyn Richards presented on the annual post award forum for year 5 of the 1115 Demonstration, materials were shared with the MCAC.
- Kelly Capuchino asked Carolyn to speak to how the inmates would attain Medicaid eligibility in terms of the Bureau of Family Assistance processes and how that will be implemented in coordination with the Bureau of Family Assistance. Carolyn Richards stated that the Department currently works with the Bureau of Family Assistance as well as the Department of Corrections on Medicaid eligibility for those in corrections and will have notification to update the member in appropriate systems for access to this Medicaid service package.
- Holly Stevens asked Carolyn Richards to elaborate on how other hospitals could participate in the waiver. Carolyn Richards stated that Medicaid has resources available to provide to facilitate to explain what is involved in becoming an Institute for Mental Diseases and bill Medicaid for these services, including some slide decks.
- Holly Stevens asked if Carolyn Richards is in touch with the hospital association to work with any hospitals that might want to become enrolled. Carolyn Richards and Brooke Belanger confirmed that the hospital association is aware of the waiver opportunities.

End of Continuous Coverage Requirement

- Deborah Fournier provided an update on the Medicaid Unwind and materials were shared with the MCAC.
- Dawn McKinney asked what the Department is doing to address children who are probably eligible in getting redetermined. Dawn McKinney noted that the same number had not redetermined as had lost coverage due to being over income, and the same pattern was seen with long term care.
 - Deb Fournier stated that the Department has been conducting phone outreach to those individuals to make sure that guardian/caretaker is aware of potential eligibility for the member, has extended the reconsideration window to 120 days and that support teams have been working to reach out to service providers who work with children on education that children may remain eligible even when parents/caretakers are no longer eligible.
- Deb Fournier offered some notes about the open enrollment time frame. Deb Fournier stated that members may have become eligible for Medicare during the continuous eligibility period and can face a financial penalty when they are late to sign up for Medicare. Deb Fournier stated that termination of Medicaid eligibility opens a special enrollment period (on or after Jan 1, 2023) starting the date of notification for 6 months after termination of Medicaid coverage. Members may be opened for Medicare either the first of the month after the month they enrolled or retroactive to the date that the person lost their Medicaid but have to pay their premiums back to that date.
- Deb Fournier noted that open enrollment is going on now on Healthcare.gov (now through January 15) and that there is a special enrollment period through the end of July 2024 for members losing their Medicaid coverage.

Rules Subcommittee

- Emily Johnson reported on behalf of Carolyn Virtue that the work of the subcommittee was completed.
- Emily Johnson expressed thanks to Lisabritt Solsky Stevens for her participation on the Subcommittee.
- Rules are still going through the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules process.
- Emily stated that there was more work for the Subcommittee, requesting a motion to continue the Subcommittee work, the motion passed.

Department Updates

- House Bill 2 Rate increases
 - Jordan McCormick stated that Department messaging has gone out regarding the July 1, 2023 and October 1, 2023 House Bill 2 rate updates. Jordan McCormick stated that she can provide those communications to anyone who requests them and that the fee schedules posted online were current.
 - Jordan McCormick stated that Medicaid is on schedule for the January 1, 2024 rate increases and that communication on these rate increases is forthcoming.

- Adult Dental
 - Dr. Sarah Finne shared that there are now 146 unique providers at 68 unique locations.
 - Claims counts are increasing steadily month over month.
 - Approximately 9,000 members have had at least one dental visit between April 1st and now.
 - There are several upcoming mobile dental events. The next 2 are this coming weekend 11/18/23 at Healthfirst Laconia and 11/19/23 in Tamworth. We are working on a location for a visit to Sullivan county 12/2 and 12/3, then back to Tamworth 12/8/23 and 12/9/23.
 - The dental vendor Northeast Delta Dental continues a robust schedule of meetings with outside stakeholders to address nursing facility access, developing education/support for providers to serve members with special healthcare needs, and continuing usage of mobile services.
 - Lisa Beaudoin asked whether in terms of usage and onboarding providers, the Department is on track with what was anticipated? Dr. Finne stated that in both recruitment and usage, Medicaid is seeing what was expected and knew that there would be a gradual increase in both.
 - Dr. Finne stated that recruiting efforts for providers has not slowed down since launching the benefit. The recruitment team, Tom Raffio from Northeast Delta Dental leading, has been participating in the dental society and visiting providers to speak one on one as part of the recruitment effort. This is how we're achieving gradual gain in the network and utilization.
 - Dr. Finne noted that the recruitment team is also listening to feedback from providers to make adjustments to the program.
 - Dr. Finne noted that there is a big demand for mobile events, that the Department is increasing utilization through mobile events and evaluating this on a week by week basis.

- DDU Updates
 - Scott Beckwith shared that a total of 52 children's cases are pending, with 11 over 90 days. This is due to Incomplete/Insufficient applications and Release of Protected Health Information forms as well as medical providers not responding timely.
 - Total of 333 Adult cases pending, with 113 over 90 days. 80 of the 113 are in the final stages of the process.
 - 66% of the adults have Medicaid through another avenue to Medicaid.
 - 25% of the children have Medicaid through another avenue to Medicaid.

- Jordan McCormick gave an update that the Medicaid Managed Care Procurement is in the scoring phase. There will be updates at the next meeting.

- Jordan McCormick gave an update on the Home and Community Based Services spending plan that the Department received approval for the Federal Fiscal Year Q1 spending plan on October 17, 2023 and submitted the FFY Q2 spending plan on October 18, 2023.
 - Holly Stevens asked if the Department can disseminate the spending plan to the MCAC group.

- Jordan McCormick stated that the CMS approved spending plan can be disseminated to the group and is available on the DHHS website.
- Jordan McCormick raised whether the MCAC meetings should be recorded beginning with the December meeting.
 - Holly Stevens asked if there was a motion for a vote on recording the meetings, Michael Auerbach moved to put it to a vote.
 - The vote passed.

DRAFT