

Minutes: Medicaid Services Advisory Committee

Date: 5/12/2020

Time: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: virtual, WebEx

Participation

Participating members: Robert Marcum, George Klauser, Kate Quale, Bradford Teslow, Hodan Guled, Kerri Gordon, Beth McMullen, Samuel Moose, Dr. Christine Foulkes, Dr. Jean Balestrery, Dr. Micah Niermann, Lynette Tahtinen

DHS staff: Krista O'Connor, Dr. Nathan Chomilo, Matt Anderson

Presenters: Matt Burdick (DHS), Sterling Kowalski (DHS), Krista O'Connor (DHS) and Kylie Nicholas/Kassira Absar (The Improve Group)

Welcome and announcements

Krista O'Connor opened the meeting by welcoming the members. Krista also welcomed public participants and noted that public comment could be submitted in writing.

Krista acknowledged the new Virtual WebEx platform and the COVID environment and thanked committee members for their leadership and guidance. She reviewed the structure of the Medicaid Services Advisory Committee, the HCA vision, the MSAC purpose and duties and the meeting agenda.

Krista provided an overview of the appointment process for the seven open seats with terms starting September 1, 2020. She requested two committee members participate on the review team for new membership. George Klauser and Lynette Tahtinen volunteered. Krista updated the group that Dominic McQuerry had assumed a new role with the Governor's Office and was unable to continue serving on the Medicaid Services Advisory Committee.

During the 2/11/20 MSAC meeting, PJ Weiner introduced an opportunity to provide input into the managed care procurement process. The procurement timelines have shifted and the opportunity was currently postponed. Additional details will be provided once timelines are known.

Krista apologized for the delay in meeting minutes for the February 11th meeting, as state staff had moved offsite and did not have access to folders. She indicated they would be sent out in the near future.

Matt Anderson was in attendance and was introduced as the new Health Care Administration Assistant Commissioner and State Medicaid Director. His first date in the office was February 19, 2020, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members shared updates.

Health Care Administration Response to COVID

Matt Anderson provided an overview of executive order 20-12 and the federal Medicaid waivers that Minnesota had requested. Matt informed the group that weekly webinars were being held with Counties, health plans, tribal leadership and community stakeholders to provide updates and keep communications open. The MSAC was invited to join the community stakeholder weekly calls and meeting invites were sent to members.

Dr. Nathan Chomilo provided an overview of how COVID-19 is impacting under-resourced populations. He discussed the challenges which included program paperwork, structural barriers (including structural racism), and lack of coverage for undocumented immigrants. He also discussed the immediate concerns with COVID-19 as well as the longer-term impacts which will emerge as the pandemic delays preventive/routine care, non-emergency procedures, and encourages isolation. Dr. Chomilo indicated that he has hope for us to learn from this lesson and use this as an opportunity to learn how to provide health care differently and better.

Committee members discussed the impact of COVID-19.

Legislative Session Update

Matt Burdick provided an overview of the 2020 legislative session. He indicated that at the start of session Minnesota has a large budget balance, which will be a significant budget deficit with COVID, and that Medicaid was not the focus of this session. The highlight was that the Health Care Policy Bill was voted on and passed by both bodies. There will be at least one special session on June 12, which is required for the Governor to continue the peacetime emergency.

Minnesota Medicaid Managed Care Comprehensive Strategy

Sterling Kowalski provided an overview of the draft Minnesota Medicaid Managed Care Comprehensive Quality Strategy Report. He explained that CMS requires report updates every three years and requested the MSAC to review the report and provide input. Committee members can provide input on any aspect of the report, however members may want to focus on the essential outcomes and/or initiatives. Feedback can be submitted to DHS.Healthcare.Research.Quality@state.mn.us and is due by May 29 2020.

Members stressed the importance of adding a measure for trauma and clinical recommendations for trauma.

Blue Ribbon Commission on Health and Human Services

Krista O'Connor provided an update on the Blue Ribbon Commission's work which was impacted by COVID delays. 43 priority strategies were identified, 19 were developed, 18 moved forward by the Commission, and 24 remain undeveloped. Krista explained that the Commission will meet several more times to review strategies, however, a portion of the work will remain undeveloped as the due date for the final report remains October 1, 2020.

Kylie Nicholas and Kassira Absar, from the Improve Group, were present to seek input from members on the community engagement approach. They reviewed the commission's charge, the goals of engagement, and provided an update on the approach being used for engagement due to COVID.

Commission members cautioned bringing more trauma into communities after COVID-19, and discussing specific strategies that could potentially have significant impact to individuals, without having many of the details due to the unfinished work of the Commission. Hodan indicated that one size doesn't fit all, and that implementation needed to be mindful of disparities. She encouraged that all engagement should utilize community partners who belong to the communities being engaged, so that there is an understanding of the challenges currently facing the community, prior to discussing any cost reductions. Bob indicated that partnerships needed to be increased with volunteer organizations which can save funds and provide access in rural communities, he also mentioned that telemedicine should be more widely explored. Other members supported telemedicine. Christine mentioned the cost of PPD is impacting providers who are concerned about the increased costs to see patients safely. Micah indicated that the long-term impact of expenditure reductions should be examined as they may override the immediate cost savings. Jean suggested the final report should consider a proactive/prevention lens with action happening upstream.

Kylie indicated that additional follow up would be provided on how to submit input on the specific strategies and/or the draft report.

More information on the [Blue Ribbon Commission](https://mn.gov/dhs/hhsbrc/) can be found at: <https://mn.gov/dhs/hhsbrc/>

Public comment

Public comment is accepted in written format and can be sent to krista.oconnor@state.mn.us. No public comment was received for the 5/12/2020 meeting.

Adjourn and next meeting

The Medicaid Services Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2020, from 12:30 – 2:30 pm, and will be held virtually, via WebEx.

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