

Minutes: Medicaid Services Advisory Committee

Date: 11/09/2021

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

Location: virtual, WebEx

Participation

Participating members: Robert Marcum, George Klauser, Saudade Samuelson, Kate Quale, Stephanie Schwartz, Hodan Guled, Abdullahi Abdullahi, Samuel Moose, Abdirahman Ahmed, Micah Niermann, Nneka Sederstrom, Lynette Tahtinen, Jovon Perry

DHS staff: Krista O'Connor, Strategic Development Director

Presenters: Cynthia MacDonald, HCA Assistant Commissioner & State Medicaid Director, Gena Savage HCA Health Care Eligibility and Access Policy Specialist, Jackie Heard HCA Health Care Eligibility Operations, and Karolina Craft, Quality Program Manager Healthcare Research and Quality

Welcome

Krista O'Connor opened the meeting by welcoming the members as well as public participants and noted that public comment could be submitted in writing to krista.oconnor@state.mn.us.

Krista reviewed the HCA vision, the MSAC purpose and duties, the meeting agenda and announced today will be the final meeting of 2021.

Updates

Krista introduced the nine new Committee members and reminded them to send their signed Oath of Office for the Secretary of State and signed Conflict of Interest forms.

Cynthia MacDonald, HCA Assistant Commissioner & State Medicaid Director announced that the US Department of Health and Human Services extended the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for up to 90 days, effective October 18, 2021. A 60 day notice will be provided prior to the end of PHE from Biden Administration. We currently anticipate it will be in place until mid-January unless notified differently.

Cynthia MacDonald, HCA Assistant Commissioner & State Medicaid Director announced that DHS finalized contracts with Blue Plus, HealthPartners, Hennepin Health, Medica, UCare and United Healthcare for the Medicaid and MinnesotaCare families and children seven county metro area. United Healthcare won public program contracts for the first time in Minnesota and will be an option in all seven counties. The contracting prioritized efforts to address equity and eliminate health disparities. Contracts will be effective 1/1/2022.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has two additional Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide Medicaid and MinnesotaCare health care services.

In October 2021 the RFP was released for statewide seniors and Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC) contracts which will begin January 1, 2023. And in January 2022 the RFP will be released for greater Minnesota Families and Children contracts which will begin January 1, 2023. This includes the 80 greater Minnesota counties exclusive of the 7 metro counties.

Krista O'Connor, Strategic Development Director announced that DHS has launched a new online application called **Mnbenefits**: mnbenefits.mn.gov. This allows individuals to apply for nine public assistance programs including: SNAP, Emergency Assistance, House Support, Child Care Assistance, Diversionary Work Program, General Assistance, MN Family Investment Program, MN Supplemental Aid and Refugee Cash Assistance

She also reported that two community conversations were held to gather feedback on racial equity for US Born Black Minnesotans. Dr Chomilo, MN Medicaid and MNCare Medical Director, will use this information to draft a report called Building Racial Equity into the Walls of MN Medicaid for US born Black Minnesotans. This report will be used to guide legislators, health care partners and community health advocates to improve Medicaid program. Questions about the report can be directed to: BREWMedicaid.DHS@state.mn.us

Medicaid Services Advisory Committee members indicated there is an interest to better understand 90 day supply for prescriptions. Krista reported that currently, not all health plans offer the 90 day supply prescription and if they do, some medications are not included. As of January 1, 2022, all health plans will offer the 90 day supply for a prescription, however, some medications are excluded. Individuals are encouraged to check with their health plan for details.

Resumption of Eligibility after Public Health Emergency

Gena Savage, HCEA and Jackie Heard, HCEO provided an update on the current and future status of eligibility enrollment into Medicaid and MinnesotaCare, which is dependent on when the federal public health emergency. The chart below shows the activities and the timing of these activities should the federal public health emergency end in mid-January, as currently anticipated. If the federal public health emergency is extended, these dates will shift. In addition, they reported that federal ARPA funding has lowered MinnesotaCare premiums on the health exchange for 2021 and 2022. Refunds will be made to individuals who have paid premiums that have now been lowered.

Activity by Month	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	April 2022
Medical Assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare Enrollees	Mail renewals restart notice (starting mid-November)	Mail renewals restart notice	Mail renewals restart notice Mail April MA renewals	Mail May MA renewals	Mail June MA renewals	Mail July MA renewals
Eligibility Workers	Inform of renewals restart	Renewals training	Renewals training	Renewals processing	Renewals processing	Renewals processing
Health Plans, Providers & Stakeholders	Inform of renewals restart	Provide updates	Provide updates	Provide updates	Provide updates	Provide updates

Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS)

Karolina Craft, Quality Program Manager, presented on the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Survey (CAHPS). The response rate for the survey is approximately 30% for all MHCP, and provides ratings on health plans, health care, personal doctors and specialists as well as access to needed care, customer service and communication. DHS uses this information to better understand an enrollee’s experience with health care, to provide enrollees tools, and to facilitate quality improvement among health plans. The results are reported to CMS for the Medicaid Core Set and are available on DHS’s Managed care quality website: [Quality outcomes and performance measures/Minnesota Department of Human Services.](#)

MSAC Members provided input and feedback on how to increase response rate which included focus groups to ensure understanding of questions being asked, and increasing language access. MSAC members also commented they were surprised to see increased satisfaction rates for people of color and that Minnesota scored below 50% for health plans nationwide, and below 25% for FFS nationwide.

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 11 09 2021 meeting.

2022 Medicaid Services Advisory Meetings

Krista O'Connor, Strategic Development Director provided an overview of the expected meeting dates and times for 2022. Previous meeting topics from 2020 and 2021 were shared with the group and members were requested to provide input on topics they would like to discuss during the 2022 meetings.

Members were interested in exploring a different start time for the meetings and potentially adding additional meetings. A follow up survey will be sent to members requesting their input on meeting times, frequencies, and topics.

Adjourn and next meeting

The Medicaid Services Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 from 12:30 – 2:30 (dependent on the survey results) and will be held remotely, via WebEx.