

Minutes: Medicaid Services Advisory Committee

Date: 11/08/2022

Time: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: WebEx

Participation

Participating members: George Klauser, Saudade Sammuels, Kate Quale, Aaron Wittnebel, Abdullahi Abdullahi, Samuel Moose, Micah Niermann, Nneka Sederstrom, Lynette Tahtinen, Jovon Perry

DHS staff: Krista O'Connor, Director of Program Improvement and Melorine Mokri, HCA Deputy Director, Federal Relations

Presenters: Ann Bobst, HCA Legislative Direction, Kristy Graume, BHDH Legislative Director, Nicole Stockert, ADS Legislative Director

Welcome

Krista O'Connor opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking members as well as public participants for attending the last meeting of 2022, reviewed housekeeping items, the HCA vision, MSAC purpose and duties, the meeting agenda, and noted public comment could be submitted in writing to Melorine Mokri at melorine.mokri@state.mn.us and to indicate if there's a conflict of interest prior to providing comment; asking to do the same by using the chat box in WebEx.

Updates – Recognition of Outgoing and New Members, COVID 19 Public Health Emergency

Krista O'Connor, Director of Program Improvement

Krista expressed gratitude to outgoing members Bob Marcum, John Wust, Abdirahman Ahmed, Stephanie Schwartz, Hodan Guled and Megan Ellingson for their contributions and dedication to the committee, the Medicaid program as well as the people we serve in Minnesota. Bob was one of the founding members and both he and Hodan served two terms. Bob also conveyed his gratitude of having the opportunity to volunteer

on “the best Medicaid Advisory Committee” and has spoken to the National Association of Medicaid directors in Washington DC on two separate occasions.

Six open Member seats expired in September that include one beneficiary or caregiver of beneficiary, three non-profit, consumer group or health and human services organization and two physician or other health care professionals/providers. Recommendations have been approved by Cynthia McDonald, Assistant Commissioner HCA, and sent to Jodi Harpstead, Commissioner HCA, for final review and approval. Member appointments will be finalized and in place for the February 2023 meeting.

As of late October 2022 Krista O’Conner accepted the Director of Program Improvement position and introduced Melorine Mokri, Director Deputy Federal Relations, as her replacement. Melorine Mokri works with a team that oversees Medicaid State plan and waivers as well as negotiations with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS, and is looking forward to working with this committee.

Effective October 13, 2022 the US Department of Health and Human Services extended the Public Health Emergency for up to another 90 days and has pledged to give at least a 60-day notice before terminating the PHE. The end of the PHE will trigger the return to annual renewal processes for medical assistance in the Minnesota Care programs and experts agree this will create the biggest challenge to health care coverage since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

2023 MSAC Meetings

Krista O’Connor, Director of Program Improvement

The 2023 meeting will remain to be held quarterly on the second Tuesday of the second month of each quarter; February, May, August and November from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm and continue to be held remotely. Meeting dates, agenda and minutes can be found on the [Minnesota's Medicaid Services Advisory Committee](#) website; and are usually posted two weeks after the meeting.

2023 Legislative Session Discussion

Ann Bobst, Legislative Director HCA, Kirsty Graume, Legislative Director Behavioral Health/Housing/Disability Services and Nicole Stockert, Legislative Director Aging Services

The 2023 Legislative session begins January 3, 2023. This year, 2023, is a budget year and a balanced budget must be passed and signed into law by July 1, 2023.

Draft proposals for Health Care Administration include expanding MA coverage for children, increase asset limit for MA people age 65 and older, people who are blind or have a disability, improving ways enrollees and applicants interact with our programs, additional needs for ‘unwinding’ from the COVID-19 PHE, expanding adult dental benefit, eliminate out-of-pocket costs for MA, remove barriers for doulas, increase Staffing in focused areas, PCA rate increases, updating competitive workforce factors, increasing hourly limits for paid parents and spouses, support people with disabilities and direct support during hospitalization, creating a discrete ‘Life Sharing’ benefit and increasing the rate, inflationary updates for disability waiver rate framework, behavioral

health proposals, Housing Stabilization Services (HSS) Benefit Expansion and HSS Payment Rate Update, older adults proposal, reform the EW program to allow older adult with complex behavioral health needs to access more intensive services to live in their communities, plus more.

Public comment

Folks thanked Krista O'Connor for all she has done for this committee and wished her well on her future endeavors.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

The Medicaid Services Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2023 from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm and will be held remotely via WebEx.