

Minutes: Medicaid Services Advisory Committee

Date: 05/10/2022

Time: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: WebEx

Participation

Participating members: Robert Marcum, George Klauser, Saudade Samuelson, Kate Quale, Aaron Wittnebel, Stephanie Schwartz, Hodan Guled, Megan Ellingson, 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 & Medicaid Director, Justine Nelson, PhD Research Scientist, HCA, Seth Kaempfer, HCA Equity Director and Gina Smith, Moving Home MN Aging Services Coordinator, Housing & Support Services, CSA

Welcome

Krista O'Connor opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking members as well as public participants for attending the second meeting of 2022. She reviewed housekeeping items, the HCA vision, the MSAC purpose and duties, the meeting agenda, and noted public comment could be submitted in writing to her at krista.oconnor@state.mn.us. She also asked individuals to indicate if they had a conflict of interest prior to providing comment; which they could do verbally or via the chat box in WebEx.

Public Health Emergency (PHE) Planning Update

Cynthia MacDonald, HCA Assistant Commissioner & Medicaid Director provided an update on the COVID 19 federal public health emergency. She announced that:

- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the PHE to July 15, 2022; and Secretary Xavier Becerra, US Department of HHS, pledged to give at least 60 days' notice before terminating the PHE or allowing it to expire. Based on this we should know by mid-May if we will have another extension.

- Ending or unwinding the COVID PHE will create the biggest challenge to health care coverage since implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- The DHS must re-determine eligibility for all 1.4 million individuals currently enrolled in Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.
- DHS is putting together a very comprehensive plan to prevent individuals from losing coverage.

2022 Legislative Session Update

Cynthia MacDonald, HCA Assistant Commissioner & Medicaid Director provided an update on the 2022 legislative session and indicated the House and Senate conference committee is beginning to review the health and human service omnibus bill which focuses on reducing barriers, closing gaps in coverage and aims to support the process of starting MA renewals following the ending of the federal PHE.

Survey of Medicaid Assistance Enrollees

Justine Nelson, PhD Research Scientist, HCA and Megan Loew, Agency Policy Specialist presented on a recent survey that was completed with individuals enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Program enrollees.

The objective of the survey was to hear from individuals enrolled in Medical Assistance and learn about what needs to be improved and what those improvements should look like. This survey is a joint effort between Health Care Administration, Community Supports Administration and a collaboration between DHS and Wilder Research. The methodology of this survey included multiple choice or yes/no questions and could be filled out online or on paper. A letter and post card were sent to 18,000 enrollees, aged 18 – 64, who were invited to participate. They were given six weeks to respond to this invitation. The group included six major race ethnicity groups and three major eligibility types: families with kids, adults without dependent children and people with disabilities. Three-thousand people participated in the survey, which focused on six domains including: Applying for MA, Access to Health Care, Clinical Care, Cultural Responsiveness, Telehealth and Financial Well-being. The group discussed the domains of interest, and Justine agreed to come back to the MSAC, at a future meeting, to discuss the findings in greater detail.

Equity Analysis Framework and Structure

Seth Kaempfer, HCA Equity Director presented an equity analysis framework that is being developed for use within DHS.

The Department of Human Services is developing and gathering input on an Equity Analysis Toolkit that includes two components; an equity analysis and an equity scan. Both components have a strong focus on marginalized communities (American Indians, Veterans, LGBTQIA, persons of color, disabilities and more). DHS is seeking input from others on this toolkit and is interested in hearing from a wide-range of individuals. DHS is currently in the drafting session and piloting process. Please contact Seth with any input. Seth will follow up at a future MSAC meeting for provide and update on this framework.

Moving Home Minnesota

Gina Smith, Moving Home MN Aging Services Coordinator, Housing & Support Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CSA), presented on potential new services for the Moving Home MN program.

[Moving Home Minnesota](#) is a Federal Medicaid demonstration project for people on Medicaid to access services that assist with moving from qualified institutions and back into the community. To qualify, a person must be on MA and have lived in an institution for at least 90 days. This program is designed to cover costs such as, apartment fees, house-hold supplies, up to 6 months of rental and utility expenses, pet care, chores services (hanging curtains, unpacking groceries), and installation of items, such as bars in the bathroom. Moving Home Minnesota provides these services for up to a year after an individual moves into the community. Gina asked the group for suggestions on additional services which could potentially be provided within this program.

Public comment

No public comment was provided.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

The Medicaid Services Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2022 from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm and will be held remotely via WebEx.

Update: the August 9, 2022 meeting was cancelled.