

Minutes: Medicaid Services Advisory Committee

Date: 05/09/2023

Time: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: WebEx

Participation

Committee members: Aaron Witnebel, George Klauser, Kate Quale, Suadade Samuelson, Kathryn Barton, Lynette Tahtinen, Micah Niermann MD, Nneka Sederstrom, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Duffy, Katie Peck, Samuel Moose, Abdullahi Abdullahi, Ashley Anderson, Chelsea Georgesen, Christine Reiten, Jovan Perry

Department of Human Services (DHS) Staff: Melorine Mokri, HCA Deputy Director, Federal Relations and Melissa Conway, HCA Communications Coordinator

Presenters: Julie Marquardt, Interim Assistant Commissioner Health Care Administration and State Medicaid Director, PJ Weiner, Managed Care Contracting and Rates Director, Heidi Hamilton, Disability Services Director

Welcome

Melorine Mokri opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking members as well as public participants for attending the second meeting of 2023, reviewed housekeeping items, the HCA vision, MSAC purpose and duties, the meeting agenda, and noted public comment could be submitted in writing msac.dhs@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. Members had a chance to introduce themselves and share why they are on the Medicaid Services Advisory Committee as well as the organization or area represented by the committee are Consumer, Non-profit or Human Services Organizations; Medicaid Beneficiaries or Caregivers; Physician or Provider Organizations and Public Welfare.

Opening Remarks - Medicaid Program Updates - Legislative updates

Julie Marquardt, Interim Assistant Commissioner Health Care Administration and State Medicaid Director

Proposed changes in federal regulations that impact how states use their Medicaid Services Advisory Committee to support more meaningful and accessible engagement. Intend to increase accountability, transparency,

standardize data, monitoring, create opportunities to promote active beneficiary engagement in Medicaid programs. Minnesota has put things in place that meet many of these regulations and welcomes these changes on a federal level.

There was suggestion from committee member George Klauser to formalize a process for concerns to be brought forward to committee members. Melorine Mokri will facilitate consideration of formalizing this process.

A package was passed March 2023 to support the State's unwinding work to redetermine 1.5 million people's eligibility over the next year to include Tribe and County resources, investments to ensure less gaps in coverage and to keep everyone who's eligible to remain on the program. Investing and improving our IT systems to keep up with the health care changes, including MAXIS and METS.

Additional information on the Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan's One Minnesota Budget is available at <https://mn.gov/governor/minnesotabudget/>. Fact sheets on the 2023 legislative session are available at [2023 session fact sheets / Minnesota Department of Human Services \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov/human-services/2023-session-fact-sheets/).

Unwinding Continuous Medicaid Coverage

PJ Weiner, Managed Care Contracting and Rates Director

DHS has developed a few new tools in hopes of preventing gaps in health insurance. Annual renewals can be completed online, mail, fax, in-person drop off and enrollees will be permitted to submit up to four-months after their coverage closes due to failure to return renewal paperwork. Renewals for Medical Assistance enrollees take place based on the anniversary month of their application creating 12 monthly cohorts to manage and process the large volume of renewals. The first group will be July and the first communication was mailed in April, renewals forms mailed in May, in order to process forms by the end of June. This process will continue for 12 months. All renewals for MinnesotaCare are the end December and communications will be mailed in October to process forms by the end of December 2023. Valuable resources on renewing Medicaid coverage are available on DHS' public webpage <https://mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/>, which includes timelines, communications toolkits, translations, and information on how to connect with trusted partners.

Disability Services Overview

Heidi Hamilton, Disability Services Director

Disability services and Medicaid programs available are Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers, Personal Care Assistance (PCA), Early and Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Interventions (EIDBI), Home Care Services, Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD).

Transformation Initiatives Waiver Reimagine and Community First Services and Supports (CFSS). Waiver Reimagine will improve the overall disability home and community-based waiver system so it's more person-centered, easier to understand and navigate. The first phase is complete with a common service menu across all

waiver programs. The second phase of Waiver Reimagine will be more complicated and longer to achieve. DHS is reshaping the four disability services waiver programs to become two waivers based on where a person lives and the type of support they need. The agency is also creating a transparent way to develop individual budget and increase the ability for people to direct their own services under Minnesota's Medicaid program.

Public comment

Ron Mandelbaum representing HealthMed – a home and community-based service provider serving clients in metro and rural counties on all waivers – presented a question during the public comment period: what recommendation can we provide the committee to share data and outcomes for providing services they do? Mandelbaum asked who to go to or speak to share some successes and offer some challenges they're having as a provider trying to reach more customers? Melorine Mokri indicated that DHS would follow up on this question and provide a response during the next public comment period in August. In the meantime, Mokri encouraged Mandelbaum to contact her directly to provide a more immediate response.

Next Meeting and Adjourn

The Medicaid Services Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023, from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. Attendees will have the option to attend remotely via WebEx or in-person.