

## **Minutes: Medicaid Services Advisory Committee**

Date: 8/11/2020

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

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

Presenters: Karolina Craft, Quality Program Manager, Sylvia Kidder, Senior Researcher, PJ Weiner, Health Care Purchasing Manager, Vimbai Madzura, Integration Reform Manager

### **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 reviewed the structure of the Medicaid Services Advisory Committee, the HCA vision, the MSAC purpose and duties and the meeting agenda.

### **Legislative Sessions & COVID challenges**

Matt Anderson, HCA Assistant Commissioner and Medicaid Director provided an overview of the legislative special sessions. He explained that the federal government has implemented a public health emergency, and the state has implemented a peacetime emergency. Minnesota DHS currently has 96 federal waivers or modifications to our Medicaid program to support members during COVID19. These modifications are around testing and treatment for COVID, continuous coverage, telemedicine changes, and home and community based services. Minnesota has requested some of these changes, for example telemedicine and home and community based services are extended to June 30, 2021.

Minnesota is experiencing a decline in preventive services, such as children's vaccinations which dipped by 70% for March/April. Although there is some rebounding, DHS is watching this carefully. DHS is encouraging folks to get flu shots, and collaborating with communities to impact disparities for people of color, who have a disproportional impact during COVID.

### **Member Acknowledgement**

Five members, including Robert Marcum, Hodan Guled, Kerri Gordon, Dr. Christine Foulkes, and Shannon Bakshian, have terms expiring August 31, 2020. Krista O'Connor thanked these individuals for their service and contributions to the Medicaid Services Advisory Committee. Members will receive a certificate of appreciation

from Commissioner Harpstead for their engagement with the committee. During their term, members provided guidance and input on the following topics:

- Original structure after restructuring
- Beneficiary support systems
- Managed care procurement and contracting
- Member materials
- Case management redesign
- Uniform Preferred Drug List (PDL)
- Medicaid Quality Measures
- Medicaid Matters data dashboard
- Integrated Health Partnerships
- Blue Ribbon Commission
- DHS Equity activities
- Minnesota Medicaid Managed Care Comprehensive Quality Strategy

Krista provided an update on the appointment process for the seven open seats that included:

- Seven Open Seats as of September 1, 2020
- April 24: seats posted with Secretary of State
- May 31: applications due & previous applicants contacted
- July 27 – Aug 4: secondary survey
- August 12: application reviewed and recommendations
- September 1: Term starts

The review team includes the following individuals from DHS and committee members:

1. George Klauser, MSAC member
2. Linda Monchamp, Health Care Administration
3. Krista O'Connor, Health Care Administration
4. Nick Puente, Community Supports Administration
5. Mat Spaan, Health Care Administration
6. Lynette Tahtinen, MSAC member

## **2019 Minnesota Health Care Disparities Report & Dashboard**

Karolina Craft, Quality Program Manager and Sylvia Kidder, Senior Health Care Researcher reviewed the key findings from the [2019 Minnesota Health Care Disparities Report](#), which was released in May 2020 from Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM). The research reports on preventive health, chronic health, and mental health.

They discussed that the Healthcare Research and Quality Division at DHS has several major initiatives to address health disparities, which include the Disparities Report, the IHP model, IHP Equity Interventions, and the Disparities Dashboard. The dashboard presents data from MNCM in a useable and visual way. It allows the display of quality measurement rates and payer disparities by individual clinic or medical group. An internal analysis found several key findings including:

1. Clinic performance often varies by measure

2. The quality of care provided by clinics to MHCP patients was related to the care provided to patients covered by other payers
3. Payer disparities were distinct from relative MHCP performance (e.g., clinics with high payer disparities weren't necessarily underperforming within MHCP)

Areas of opportunity included payment policy, quality improvement programs, and collaboration with community partners.

During the discussion after the presentation, members suggested ensuring quality measure to examine disparities for people with disabilities, seniors with disabilities, trauma, structural violence/discrimination, and American Indian health disparities.

## **Managed Care Procurement and Contracting**

PJ Weiner, Manager from DHS Purchasing and Service Delivery, provided an overview of procurement, a description of managed care programs and described how contracting is conducted for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare. PJ clarified a consistent procurement and scoring process will be utilized for any new market entrants.

Vimbai Madzura, Integration Reform Manager within the Health Care Administration, provided an overview of the community and stakeholder engagement plan for procurement and contracting. The approach will be enrollee-centric, utilize an equity lens, and obtain stakeholder input. DHS has outlined their willingness to consider alternatives to past procurement processes, and made a commitment to document the process, decisions, and rationale. The goal is to produce managed care contracts that will reduce or eliminate disparities in health outcomes, leverage research around social drivers of health to improve health outcomes, bolster behavioral health and substance use disorder services, support health care infrastructure, and implement strong accountability provisions for MCOs. Vimbai also outlined the engagement approach with health plans, providers, enrollees, and counties.

During the discussion after the presentation, members provided guidance on ways to engage with the community, especially during COVID, which included town halls (virtual), Facebook Groups, Arc, PACER, providers (Fraser, St. David's, etc.). Members also encouraged DHS to consider obtaining feedback from individuals with disabilities, senior communities, immigrant communities, non-English speaking patients and families, Tribes (as part of the review process). Members felt it was very important to have specific, MEASURABLE questions related to equity and disparities in the procurement RFP.

## **Blue Ribbon Commission Update**

Krista O'Connor provided an update on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Health and Human Services (BRC). During July, the Commission obtained public input on a draft report. The Commission will utilize the August meeting to review public input and determine how to incorporate the input into the final report. The commission will then convene in September to approve the final report, which will be delivered to the Governor and Legislatures on or prior to the October 1, 2020 due date. Committee members can stay engaged with the work of the BRC by signing up for the public list serve and or visiting the [Medicaid Services Advisory Committee public website](https://mn.gov/dhs/hhsbrc/) 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](mailto:krista.oconnor@state.mn.us). No public comment was received for the 8 11 2020 meeting.

## Adjourn and next meeting

The Medicaid Services Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020, from 12:30 – 2:30 pm, and will be held virtually, via WebEx.

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