

Minutes: Medicaid Services Advisory Committee

Date: 8/10/2021

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

Location: virtual, WebEx

In-person location: Lafayette, room L3148

Participation

Participating members: Robert Marcum, George Klauser, Kate Quale, Aaron Wittnebel, Stephanie Schwartz, Hodan Guled, Beth McMullen, Samuel Moose, Dr. Jean Balestrery, Lynette Tahtinen, Jovon Perry

DHS staff: Krista O'Connor, Strategic Development Director

Presenters: Ann Bobst, HCA director of Legislative and External Affairs; Ashley Reisenauer, CSA/CCOA Director of Fiscal Analysis and Results Management; Bien Shoakena, CSA/CCOA Financial Analysis, Research and Evaluation; Dr. Nathan Chomilo, HCA Medicaid and MinnesotaCare Medical Director

Welcome

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 to krista.oconnor@state.mn.us.

Krista reviewed the HCA vision, the MSAC purpose and duties and the meeting agenda.

Updates

Krista provided an update on Minnesota's peacetime emergency expiring on July 1, 2021, and introduced Cynthia MacDonald, Minnesota's new Assistant Commissioner for the Health Care Administration and Medicaid Director.

2021 end of session legislative update

Ann Bobst, HCA Director of Legislative and External Affairs provided an update on the end of the 2021 legislative session, which included the following items:

- Elimination of the family glitch in MinnesotaCare
- MA-EPD and MinnesotaCare premium forgiveness during the pandemic
- Improving access to public transportation
- Additional investments in the Integrated Care for High-Risk Pregnant Women (ICHRP) grant program
- Continuing access to telehealth
- Extending the postpartum period for pregnant women on MA to 12 months

- Significant reforms to the dental program
- Lowering MinnesotaCare premiums through 2022

Evaluating Racial/Ethnic disparities in HCBS Assessments

Ashley Reisenauer and Blen Shoakena, Fiscal Analysis and Results Management, Continuing Care for Older Adults and Community Supports, provided an overview of a project which will examine racial and ethnic disparities in home and community based services with a focus on the assessment process.

The project:

- Is multi-stage and uses quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the assessment process and understand disparities.
- Examines institutional biases built into policies and practices and makes recommendations to address them.
- Uses a continuous improvement lens and works to identify and share practices that are successfully addressing disparities.

Next steps include sharing learnings with partners, and launching phase two of the project which is expected to take place between June 2021 and Dec 2022.

Minnesota Medicaid's work to reduce material and infant health disparities

Dr. Nathan Chomilo, Minnesota's Medicaid and MinnesotaCare Medical Director provided an overview of work to reduce material and infant health disparities in Minnesota. He reviewed birth disparities, Medicaid coverage for doula services, and integrated care for high risk pregnancies.

Member Appointments

Krista O'Connor, Strategic Development Director, indicated that eight seats were posted for re-appointment on the Secretary of State website and one tribal seat remained open. She reviewed the appointment process and timelines.

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 8 10 2021 meeting.

Adjourn and next meeting

The Medicaid Services Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2021, from 12:30 – 2:30 pm, and will be held remotely, via WebEx.

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