

## Meeting Minutes: Health Services Advisory Committee

Date: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Minutes prepared by: Cara Schnick

Location: Webex, Elmer A Andersen Building – 540 Cedar Street St Paul MN 55101 Room 2360

### Attendance

#### Committee members present:

- Dan Stein, MD, MPH – Physician, Committee Chair
- Amy Burt, DO, FAAP, CHIE – Physician Representing a Health Care Plan
- Howard Fink, MD, MPH – Physician Specialist
- Scott Hegstad, MD – Physician Representing a Health Care Plan
- Rakesh John MD – Licensed Mental Health Provider
- Rick Printon, DC – Non-Physician Health Care Professional
- Samba Fall, – Consumer
- Saudade Sammuels, – Consumer
- Claudia Thomas, MD, FACP – Physician

#### Committee members absent:

- Nathan Chomilo, MD, FAAP, FACP – Medical Director for MHCP – Non-voting member
- Michael Thorn, APRN, CNP, RN, MSN, MHA – Non-Physician Health Care Professional
- Tenbit Emiru, MD, PhD, MBA – Physician Representing a Health Care Plan

#### Guests Present:

- Deb Thorp, MD
- George McNeely
- Isabel Oxenfield, LICSW
- Kelsey Leonardsmith, MD
- Valerie King, MD, MPH
- Kacia Lee, MD
- Rhamy Magid, MD
- Phil Duran
- Melinda Pierce, MD, MCR
- Kerry Edna McDonald, LICSW
- Manny Munson

#### DHS Staff Present:

- Carol LaBine
- Sarah Orange
- Cara Schnick
- Mark Foresman
- Laurie Engeldinger
- Diogo Reis

## Minutes

**Welcome:** Chair Dan Stein, Chair Call to order

Roll call for committee and guests present

Reviewed agenda

Approved May minutes – Motion to confirm minutes by Amy Burt, seconded by Claudia Thomas.

Verbal vote approved May minutes.

**Background:** Diogo Reis, Director of Health Improvement and Benefit Design division, DHS

Provided summary of questions the committee is being asked, reviewed the presentations and other information shared with committee over the prior meetings on this topic.

**Discussion and voting:** Chair Stein

Chair Stein stated committee following Roberts rules loosely, explained utilization of poll feature for voting recording, and reviewed previous recommendations reached.

1. Committee recommends to not add age criteria for breast removal surgery
2. Committee recommends to not add hormone criteria for breast removal surgery for adults or adolescents.

Committee began discussion of outstanding questions.

3. Should MHCP require hormone therapy prior to breast augmentation? And if so, what is the appropriate length of time?

A – Follow current MHCP policy

B – WPATH recommendations – 9 Votes from Scott Hegstad, Amy Burt, Rick Printon, Samba Fall, Rakesh John, Claudia Thomas, Sagar Dugani, Dan Stein, Saudade Samuelson.

C – Endocrine Society

D - Other

The committee had a short discussion on variables between MHCP and WPATH recommendations and chose to vote.

Unanimous vote for option B – WPATH Recommendations from Scott Hegstad, Amy Burt, Rick Printon, Samba Fall, Rakesh John, Claudia Thomas, Sagar Dugani, Dan Stein, Saudade Samuelson.

***Recommendation reached: To follow WPATH recommendations for hormone therapy prior to breast augmentation.***

4. Should there be age criteria for genital surgery? And if so, what age criteria?

Committee and members of the public discussed scope of practice, continuing education for gender affirming providers, and benefits and barriers to receiving genital surgery prior to age 18.

Amy Burt made a motion to add option D, which was seconded by Claudia Thomas.

A – Follow current MHCP policy – 0 Votes

B – WPATH recommendations – 1 vote from Samba Fall

C – Endocrine Society – 0 Votes

D – WPATH standards except for age 18 for phalloplasty - 9 Votes from Saudade Samuelson, Daniel Stein, Howard Fink, Sagar Dugani, Claudia Thomas, Rakesh John, Rick Printon, Amy Burt, Scott Hegstad.

***Recommendation reached: To follow WPATH recommendations except for age 18 for phalloplasty.***

5. Should MHCP have criteria around members living in their gender role prior to gender affirming surgery? And if so, what criteria?

The Committee and members of the public discussed the language of WPATH recommendations, including discussion about what ‘over time’ meant, as well as the safety concerns for some trans people living in their gender role.

A – Current MHCP policy – 0 Votes

B – WPATH recommendations – 10 votes – from Saudade Samuelson, Daniel Stein, Howard Fink, Sagar Dugani, Claudia Thomas, Rakesh John, Rick Printon, Amy Burt, Scott Hegstad and Samba Fall.

C – Endocrine Society – 0 Votes

D – Other – 0 Votes

***Recommendation reached: To follow WPATH recommendations for gender role prior to affirming surgeries.***

6. Should MHCP require letters of recommendation prior to gender affirming surgery? If so, how many and from whom?

Because end of the meeting was nearing – motion was made to split this question into two, vote on the first part presently, and move discussion on how many letters and from whom to the next meeting.

Claudia Thomas made a motion to vote to on MHCP requiring 1 letter prior to gender affirming surgery.

Motion was seconded by Saudade Samuelson.

Motion passed by unanimous verbal vote.

***Recommendation reached: To require 1 letter of recommendation prior to gender affirming surgery. further discussion will continue for specifications at following meeting.***

## **Next Meeting**

Date: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Webex, Elmer A Andersen Building – 540 Cedar Street St Paul MN 55101 Room

2360 Agenda items: Continued discussion and votes on gender affirming care, next topic and topic recommendation requests.