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**Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
October 20, 2014

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**Board Members Present:** Bram Kleppner, Trinka Kerr, Kay Van Woert , Julie Lineberger (phone), Donna Sutton Fay, Christina Colombe (phone), Larry Goetschius, Jackie Majoros, Paul Bakeman, Shannon Wilson, Sheila Reed, Madeleine Mongan, Lisa Maynes, Joan Lavoie, Julie Tessler, Sharon Henault (phone), Clifton Long, Ellen Gurshun and Dale Hackett.

**Board Members Absent:** Peter Espenshade, Gladys Mooney, Vaughn Collins, Laura Pelosi, Catherine Hamilton, Tim Ford, Cathy Davis, Sharon Winn and Harry Chen.

**Other Interested Parties Present:** Nathaniel Waite, Rebecca Heintz, Leshia Kaso, Betty Morse, Marilyn Mahusky, Matt McMahon, Susan Gretkowski (phone), Mark Van Woert and Kristen Bigelow-Talbot.

**Staff Present:** DVHA: Selina Hickman, Victoria Jarvis, Kaitlin Epstein, Jaqueline Rose, Carrie Germaine, Jason Pope, Dylan Frazer and Clark Eaton.

**HANDOUTS**

- Agenda
- Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board (MEAB) September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- EPSDT Work Group Draft Recommendations re Applied Behavioral Analysis and Developmental Services (10/17/14)
- Health Care Advocate (HCA) Quarterly Report, Jul-Sept, 2014 (10/17/14)
- Vermont Health Connect Update (10/20/2014)

\*all are posted to the VHC website

**CONVENE**

Bram Kleppner and Donna Sutton Fay chaired the meeting.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Donna Sutton Fay noted a meeting process change to allow for public comment just prior to the lunch break and then again later near the end of the meeting. Donna also reminded everyone to allow presenters to complete their briefing and hold questions until the conclusion of the briefing.

**Board Business**

Following introductions, the meeting minutes for September 8, 2014 were reviewed and adopted.

**MEAB Work Group Updates – Work Group Chairs**

*Small Employer Work Group* – JulieLineberger reported that the Small Employer Work Group has not met in the last month. Bram Kleppner noted that a question had come up about small business dental coverage. For now, they will have to go outside of VHC and work with Delta Dental or another dental service organization to obtain coverage.

*Improving Access Work Group* – Work Group Chair, Trinka Kerr, reported that the group last met on October 6<sup>th</sup> at DVHA in Williston. The next meeting will be held on December 1 at DVHA. The group is feeling a little frustrated with the pace of change. New action steps include a few tweaks to the DME acquisition roadmap that has been prepared. The group will be seeking more data on access issues. DVHA will look into a previous system for tracking access problems and issues. The group and DVHA will also be thinking of ways for people with long term chronic conditions and disabilities to get services and DME without providing repeat information on their

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medical condition and disabilities. Work is continuing on improving Notices of Decision for prior authorizations for DME. Selina Hickman has been in contact with HP on possible formats and editing solutions.

*EPSDT Work Group* – Recent August 18th Work Group minutes went to the MEAB this past week. Work Group Chair, Nathaniel Waite, reported that the Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) Work Group met again on October 17<sup>th</sup> at DVHA in Williston. They reviewed the group’s priorities list and prepared some draft recommendations on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Developmental Services (available today) that the MEAB can review for possible support action at the November meeting. Other subtopics that will be explored by smaller groups will include: 1) case management, 2) the Katy Beckett waiver (communications and barriers), and 3) family leadership/development activities. The next EPSDT meeting will be held on November 4. Marilyn Mahusky provided a brief overview of the concept of ABA and how Vermont might move ahead concerning ABA.

*VHC Individuals and Families Work Group* – Work Group Chair Donna Sutton Fay, reported that the group met on September 22. The group was briefed on the intended VHC customer satisfaction evaluation that is scheduled for the fall. The survey will be conducted by the University of Massachusetts Medical School and will focus on three sub groups of participants with VHC: 1) those who completed an application for health insurance, but never picked a plan, 2) those who picked a plan and enrolled, and 3) those who are enrolled in Medicaid. A survey sample of 8,000 will be selected and the survey will take about 16 minutes. This Work Group will meet again on October 27<sup>th</sup> and focus initially on the upcoming open enrollment period that begins on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Care Giver Reimbursement Work Group* – This Work Group last met on August 19<sup>th</sup> at DVHA in Williston to look at the issue of caregiver reimbursement in the state. The group initially worked on establishing broad principles for health care provider reimbursement. The MEAB discussed and approved a resolution at its September meeting that would address these principles, as well as define an appropriate approach for direct care giver reimbursement. The group will turn its attention to direct care giver reimbursement and is tentatively scheduled to meet again on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**DVHA Topics/Discussion – Mark Larson**

*General Update/Other* – Mark Larson reported that the demonstration projects/funding for the Blueprint for Health and Support and Services at Home (SASH) programs have been extended through the end of calendar year 2016. The projects initially were scheduled to end this year. DVHA prepared a report to the Legislature that identified the opportunities of these demonstration projects; a copy of the report will be forwarded to the MEAB.

*Budget Discussion SFY '16* – For the SFY '16 budget development, the administration has asked for two proposed versions: 1) a budget that is “flat” and does not exceed the overall amount of the SFY '15 budget, and 2) a budget that reflects a five percent reduction in the use of state general fund dollars when compared to SFY '15. Budget proposals will also have to accommodate growth in enrollment or utilization. Mark will try to include projections on changes in enrollment /utilization at the November MEAB meeting. Larry Goetschius asked that, in its budget development, DVHA distinguish between providers that can cost shift and those providers that do not have the ability to cost shift. Mark also noted that the recent legislative rules on tele-monitoring and the prescription drug monitoring system both have been approved and will go into effect at the beginning of November.

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*Medicaid Shared Savings Program/ACO Update* – Mark Larson discussed the recent proposal that went before the VHCIP Steering Committee related to the modification of the Medicaid Shared Savings Program (MSSP) performance measures/quality standards for year two operations with ACO's. Most of the proposal was approved, except for two performance measures. At the November MEAB meeting, Mark will provide a more detailed discussion on the MSSP and ACO programs, focusing on year two.

**Public Comment Opportunity – Co-Chairs**

There was no public comment at this stage of the meeting.

**Health Care Advocate Quarterly Report – Trinka Kerr**

Trinka Kerr, Chief Health Care Advocate (HCA), provided a summary of the office's Quarterly Report for the period ended September 30, 2014. Call volume has remained at a high level; most calls were related to premium processing and billing. There also are still a lot of calls related to change of circumstance issues; these have increased compared to the previous quarter. On the plus side, access to care complaints (caused by the cost of health care) have decreased. Three new areas of concern are appearing: 1) understanding of Advanced Premium Tax Credits, 2) understanding of Special Enrollment Periods, and 3) education on grace periods. The HCA spent considerable time on consumer protection activities, including rate review work, hospital budget review, work on certificates of need, Green Mountain Care Board activities and the Vermont Health Care Innovation Project.

**Autism Services Update – Selina Hickman**

Selina Hickman, Policy Director at DVHA, discussed the legislative action and additional dollars that have been provided to Designated Agencies to improve autism services and support. DVHA is adding two new staff members to augment this effort: one new staff member for the Clinical/Quality Units starting immediately, and one new Policy Unit member starting in early November. For potential licensure, a sunrise study will be conducted this summer for behavioral analysts. A public hearing will be held this fall concerning the need for licensure of behavioral analysts. Other states have recently licensed behavior analysts (Louisiana and Washington). Julie Tessler cautioned that there needs to be a balanced approach and an eventual creation of an array of services for people on the autism spectrum.

**Vermont Health Connect (VHC) Topics – Robert Skowronski**

*Incident Command Structure* – Robert Skowronski, Deputy Commissioner at the VHC, outlined the new organizational structure at VHC (Incident Command Structure) that will allow VHC to be very proactive and responsive to issues that come up in the future as the new health care exchange continues to develop and operate for Vermont. It brings together all of the necessary links to DVHA support and other resources from AHS. Internally, it integrates the key functions of Operations and IT, Logistics, Planning, and Finance & Administration. Donna Sutton Fay stressed the importance of having a direct point of contact for the navigators in the field. The current POC at VHC is in transition to another job. VHC will identify the new point or points-of-contact for navigators.

*Open Enrollment Period* – Paul Hochanadel, Director of Strategic Projects, discussed the upcoming open enrollment period (11/15/14 to 2/15/15) and the populations that will be affected for: 1) Open Enrollment (a new customer population estimated at 3000-5000 people), 2) Annual

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Renewal (for QHP-only participants [18,575], mixed households [3,200], and stand-alone dental participants [1,175] ), and 3) Monthly Medicaid Renewals. The state is requesting permission from CMS to delay monthly Medicaid renewals until the end of the open enrollment period. Paul also reviewed the key milestones prior to and throughout the open enrollment period, including the following actions: 1) VHC Renewal Notices, 2) Carrier Notices, 3) VHC Outreach Letters, and 4) overall Open Enrollment Processing.

*VHC Dashboard/Key Indicators* – Robert reviewed the most current version of the MEAB dashboard. Dashboard pages for the Qualified Health Plans, Medicaid, and the Call Center were displayed, showing month to month trends. The Call Center activity has improved significantly concerning wait times and the fact that almost 99% of calls now are answered within 24 seconds. Board members made further reporting suggestions on how to better present data.

Current VHC information and activities can always be viewed at [www.vermonthealthconnect.gov](http://www.vermonthealthconnect.gov)

**MEAB Discussion – Board Members**

Bram Kleppner asked board members to consider and review potential agenda items (listed below) for the November 10 MEAB meeting.

**Public Comment Opportunity – Co-Chairs**

There was no public comment during the meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45PM.

**Topics for Regular Update:**

- Vermont Health Connect Topics/Discussion
- Commissioner Updates (Current Topics Discussion)
- Duals/VHIP/SIM Update/Discussion
- GC Waiver (as Necessary)
- Medicaid Shared Savings Program
- MEAB Work Group Meeting Reports
- Quarterly Advocate Report (Legal Aid)

**Draft Topics for November 10 Meeting:**

- Budget Advice from MEAB to DVHA/other Departments
- Follow-up on the Rule Change – Companion Aide Pilot Project
- DOL Rule Regarding the New FLSA Regulations for Home Care Workers
- VHC/Member Services Update/Planning for Upcoming Enrollment Period
- MEAB Member Orientation Topics Update

**Future Meeting Topics:**

- Health Care Reform - single payer models
- Reinvestment in Community Based Services
- Affordability and reinvestment pertaining to provider rates
- Minimizing administrative complexity for businesses that offer insurance

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**Data Request(s) for Future Meeting:**

- Termination Data from Carriers
- Total Medicaid Budget – what portion is entitlement/what is not?

**Issue Tracker List:**

- Inventory of Perverse Incentives
- Diapers
- Medicaid transportation
- Out-of-State travel
- Specialist or preferred providers
- Mental Health fee schedule changes
- Prior Authorization concerns
- Coordination of Benefits between Medicare and Medicaid

**Ongoing Small Group Works**

- EPSDT Work Group
- Improving Access Work Group
- Small Employer Work Group
- Individuals and Families Work Group
- Caregiver Reimbursement Work Group

**Next Meeting**

**November 10, 2014**

**Time: 11:00AM – 3:00PM**

**Site: TBD, Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT**

**Please visit the Advisory Board website for up-to-date information:**

[http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory\\_board/meeting\\_materials](http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory_board/meeting_materials)