
Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2014

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Board Members Present: Bram Kleppner, Trinka Kerr, Kay Van Woert, Rebecca Heintz, Amy Vaughan, Julie Lineberger (phone), Donna Sutton Fay, Tim Ford, Gladys Mooney, Vaughn Collins, Larry Goetschius, Jackie Majoros, Paul Bakeman, Lisa Maynes, Joan Lavoie, Julie Tessler, Sharon Henault (phone), Ellen Gershun and Dale Hackett.

Board Members Absent: Peter Espenshade, Shannon Wilson, Laura Pelosi, Christina Colombe, Sheila Reed, Madeleine Mongan, Cathy Davis, Clifton Long, Sharon Winn and Harry Chen.

Other Interested Parties Present: Nathaniel Waite, Lesha Rasco, Kirsten Murphy, Marilyn Mahusky, Claudia Pringle, Caroline Webster, Sherry May, Deborah Pereira, Kelly Barnier, Matt McMahon, Susan Gretkowski (phone), Mark and Kristen Bigelow-Talbot.

Staff Present: DVHA: Selina Hickman, Victoria Jarvis, Jaqueline Rose, Jason Pope, Dylan Frazer and Clark Eaton.

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board (MEAB) October 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- EPSDT Work Group Draft Recommendations re Applied Behavioral Analysis and Developmental Services (10/17/14)
- Vermont Health Connect (VHC) Update (11/10/2014)

*all are posted to the VHC website

CONVENE

Bram Kleppner and Donna Sutton Fay chaired the meeting.

Welcome/ Introductions/Approval of Minutes

Bram Kleppner introduced Amy Vaughan, a new board member representing Fletcher Allen Health Care. Other board members and meeting attendees introduced themselves around the room. Following introductions, the meeting minutes for October 20, 2014 were reviewed and adopted.

MEAB Work Group Updates – Work Group Chairs

Small Employer Work Group – Julie Lineberger reported that the Small Employer Work Group has not met recently. Bram Kleppner added that this Work Group would probably not meet until January, or after, when small employers are allowed to purchase insurance plans through VHC.

Improving Access Work Group – Work Group Chair, Trinka Kerr, reported that the group last met on October 6th at DVHA in Williston. The next meeting will be held on December 1 at DVHA.

VHC Individuals and Families Work Group – Work Group Chair Donna Sutton Fay, reported that the group met on October 27th. The group reviewed draft data from VHC that would help detect areas of concern involving VHC enrollment over time. The group also discussed and explored the concern for individuals who are eligible for cost sharing reductions (CSR's), but are not enrolled in a Silver Plan. Individuals need to be contacted to make sure they understand they need to be in a Silver plan to get CSR's. Discussions also centered around: 1) the type of assistance provided by Member Services relating to CSR's, 2) VHC outreach to individuals who come to State

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offices, 3) 2014 plan information and enrollment after November 15, and 4) better dashboard data to evaluate monthly enrollment and trends. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd. *Care Giver Reimbursement Work Group* – This Work Group has completed worked on establishing broad principles for health care provider reimbursement. The group will turn its attention to direct care giver reimbursement and is tentatively scheduled to meet again in late November or early December.

EPSDT Work Group Update/Recommendation

Work Group Chair, Nathaniel Waite, reported that the Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) Work Group met recently on November 4th at DVHA in Williston. They further reviewed the group's draft recommendations on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Developmental Services that were provided to the MEAB at its October 20th meeting. Kay Van Woert summarized the Work Group's final recommendation (see handout) to the MEAB on ABA and asked for support action. DVHA supports the recommendation, but the Work Group wants to have a MEAB resolution that can also go to the Office of Professional Regulation, DAIL and other interested AHS Departments. The only changes to the final recommendations were: 1) change "December 31, 2014" in two places to "January, 2015", and 2) edit language on bullet 2, page 2, to replace the verb "recruits" with the phrase "begins the process". The motion was made for the MEAB to accept the EPSDT's ABA recommendations. Julie Tessler stressed the importance of providing the right type of support and that there needs to be appropriate standards of support, including quality measures for the desired support.

At this juncture, to afford timely comment, the Co-Chairs/MEAB allowed public comment on the ABA recommendation. Claudia Pringles, a special needs law attorney in Vermont, made edit suggestions on the ABA recommendations to make the language more specific and appropriate. Marilyn Mahusky, a staff attorney with VT Legal Aid, reminded attendees that VT law requires insurers to provide coverage for evidenced-based treatment of early childhood developmental disorders, including ABA, by a nationally board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA). DVHA is supporting this move toward licensing. Kirsten Murphy, a Work Group volunteer member, assured the board that the intent of licensing is to stress positive behavior support and not aversion therapy. Lesha Rasco, Northern VT Director, SD Associates, Williston, VT., noted the VTABA website as a good place to start to look at positive therapies available. SD Associates is a private company providing learning and behavioral assistance for VT children with significant challenges.

Kay Van Woert asked to move forward with the motion to approve the Work Group's ABA recommendations, to include a friendly amendment to make date changes and reword "training for parents" to read "make training available". Mark Larson agreed that DVHA supports the expansion of services and licensing; however, DVHA does have concerns about how quickly things can get done. CMS approval is required and DVHA must also go through the State Plan Amendment process. Licensing needs to come first and then DVHA will move forward as actively as possible. The MEAB will not use hard deadlines in the recommendations. DVHA will use an approach with CMS that has been approved for other states; this will hopefully smooth out the process. Mark also stressed that it will be important for the Board to express support for licensing to the Office of Professional Development.

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The MEAB voted to approve the EPSDT Work Group's recommendations, including friendly amendments, and forward them to DVHA and other appropriate offices of state government. There were 17 yeas, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.

The MEAB also discussed EPSDT Work Group recommendations for Developmental Services (DS). Kay Van Woert summarized these recommendations. These recommendations are more conceptual and should be looked at by DVHA and other appropriate AHS Departments. DS recommendations are at the planning and budgeting phase. Julie Tessler provided a specific change on the third bullet recommendation adding "ensuring services are not improperly limited by the DAIL System of Care Plan funding priorities". The Board voted to approve the EPSDT's Work Group recommendations, including the friendly amendment. There were 19 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Public Comment Opportunity – Co-Chairs

There was public comment opportunity afforded during the preceding Work Group presentations.

Vermont Health Connect (VHC) Topics – Robert Skowronski

Open Enrollment Period – Justin Tease, Director of Implementation at the VHC, discussed the upcoming open enrollment period (11/15/14 to 2/15/15) and covered key activities leading up to and following the start date of November 15. The site will be brought up live internally on 11/13-14, and then go live to the public on Saturday, 11/15/2014. The first day may not actually be that busy. Numerous scenarios have been checked out and determined to function properly in a test environment. Emily Yahr, who has worked in Outreach and Education on the website, talked the Board through "screen shots" of the new layout of the VHC website, including the home page, the help center and access for open enrollment. Enrollment scenarios can be completed online, or pages can be printed out, completed and mailed in. Individuals are still encouraged to contact or work with a Navigator, especially for those who are just more comfortable talking to someone. *A Few Answers* – Robert Skowronski, Deputy Commissioner at the VHC, provided responses to questions that were posed at the October MEAB meeting. Lisa Maynes and Donna Sutton Fay stressed the importance of having a direct point of contact for the navigators in the field. The current POC has transitioned to another job. For now, VHC has provided Navigators with details on who to contact for specific questions or challenges. A new hire is anticipated as soon as possible. VHC will e-mail the MEAB members to schedule a meeting to discuss ways to improve VHC linkage to problem solving for Navigators. Questions were also asked about projected Open Enrollment call volumes for 11/15 and after. The Level 1 call center (Member Services) has completed projections of staffing needs for open enrollment. An additional 28 customer service stations will be in place in Vermont, and there will be more seats available in Chicago. There is also a plan for quick expansion, if necessary.

Notices and Renewal Notices – Ellen Cairns, Communications Manager, VHC, reviewed the various notices that have been prepared/ mailed. Typical examples were reviewed and described for the board. Renewal notices will start going out soon on a rolling basis.

VHC Dashboard/Key Indicators – Robert reviewed the most current version of the MEAB dashboard. Dashboard pages for the Qualified Health Plans (QHP), Medicaid, and the Call Center were displayed, showing month to month trends. Robert will review the current metrics being tracked for QHP's. The Call Center activity has improved significantly concerning wait times and

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the fact that 98% of calls now are answered within 24 seconds. Board members are still encouraged to make suggestions on how to better present data.

Current VHC information and activities can always be viewed at www.vermonthealthconnect.gov

Companion Aide Pilot Project – Susan Wehry, DAIL Commissioner

Susan Wehry, DAIL Commissioner, provided a summary and follow up information on the Companion Aide Pilot Project that was introduced by the Rate Setting Department at the October 20th MEAB meeting. As part of overall long term care planning, the program was created to assist placement of candidates in nursing home that, because of challenging behavior, would need extra help. The pilot project should allow the state to embed person-centered care (particularly, person-centered dementia care) in a way that should be very effective. The pilot project is scheduled to be implemented in January, 2015 and will run for 2 ½ years in five nursing homes. The concept has been under study since 2013. The impact of the program will be monitored and quality measures will be tracked. A companion aide could be assigned to an individual or to a group of people for facility assistance. Jackie Majoros noted the continued need to also address the actual mental health of patients. There is also a concern about the specific training required for companion aides. Susan stressed that this initiative does not detract from efforts to support home and community based long term care efforts. Donna Sutton Fay suggested there be effective oversight of the budgeted funds for the project, especially at a time when human services dollars are so limited. If the pilot is not successful, members asked DAIL to be sure that budget dollars get properly reallocated in the future.

MEAB Discussion – Board Members

Bram Kleppner asked board members to consider and review potential agenda items (listed below) for the December 8 MEAB meeting.

Public Comment Opportunity – Co-Chairs

There was no public comment at the end of the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.

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 December 8 Meeting:

- MSSP/ACO's – Year 2
- HCR -- Benefits Options

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- DVHA Policy Follow-up Topics (Foster Children coming into VT, Medicaid Verification Requirements)
- DOL Rule Regarding the New FLSA Regulations for Home Care Workers
- VHC/Member Services Update Concerning the Open 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

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

December 8, 2014

Time: 11:00AM – 3:00PM

Site: VSAC Building, Winooski, VT

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

http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory_board/meeting_materials