

Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2016

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Board Members Present: Bram Kleppner, Trinka Kerr, Julie Tessler (phone), Lisa Maynes, Rebecca Heintz, Madeleine Mongan (phone), Donna Sutton Fay, Clifton Long, Amy Vaughan, Jackie Majoros, Kay Van Woert, Erin McIntyre, Michelle Fay, Paul Bakeman, Joan Lavoie, Vaughn Collins (phone), Christina Colombe (phone), Laura Pelosi, Gladys Mooney, Nate Waite, and Dale Hackett (phone).

Board Members Absent: Peter Espenshade, Leslie Nulty, Sharon Winn, Sharon Henault, Larry Goetschius, Shannon Wilson, Cathy Davis and Tim Ford.

Other Interested Parties Present: Kelly Barnier, Betty Morse, Kirsten Murphy, Melissa Miles, Peter Cobb (phone), William Lambrukos (phone), Susan Gretkowski (phone).

Staff Present: Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA): Marybeth Bizarri and Clark Eaton. AHS Policy: Danielle Fuoco.

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board (MEAB) December 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Medicare Supplemental Insurance Letter (12/8/15)
- Health Care Advocate Quarterly Report (Oct. 1- Dec. 31, 2015)
- Vermont Health Connect (VHC) MEAB Update (1/25/16)
- VHC 2017 Qualified Health Plan Proposal Overview (1/25/16)
- AHS Health Benefits Eligibility and Enrollment Rule Overview (1/25/16)

*all are posted to the VHC website

CONVENE

Donna Sutton Fay and Bram Kleppner chaired the meeting.

Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes

Board members and meeting attendees introduced themselves around the room. A quorum of 20 members was present. The meeting minutes for December 21, 2015 were reviewed and approved, with 18 yeas, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.

MEAB Discussion Items: Co-Chairs

Medicare Supplemental Insurance Letter – Donna Sutton Fay discussed the 12/8/15 letter that the VT Association of Area Agencies on Aging had sent to the Commissioner of the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR). The MEAB had indicated previously that it may want to discuss and support the letter. The letter addresses an issue in the Medicare Supplemental Insurance Minimum Standard regulations; currently, the regulations do not explicitly provide a guarantee issue period for Vermonters who lose their eligibility for Medicaid or a Medicare Savings Program. There has been no word back yet from the DFR. Following discussion, the board unanimously passed the resolution below (by a vote of 20 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions) to support the request related to the Medicare Supplemental Policy Regulations outlined in the letter:

“The Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board urges the Department of Financial Regulation to issue a Bulletin or promulgate a change in the regulation to clarify that Vermonters who lose their eligibility for Medicaid or a Medicare Savings Program have the same guarantee issue protections as the regulations provide to individuals who lose other types of coverage.”

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Improving Access Work Group -- The group last met on November 17th. It was decided to start meeting on a quarterly basis, unless there was a specific issue to work on. The first issue continues to be finding ways to improve prior authorizations. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21 at DVHA in Williston.

EPSDT Work Group – The group has already reported on its December meeting, and its next meeting is scheduled for DVHA in Williston on February 12.

Health Care Advocate (HCA) Quarterly Report – Trinka Kerr

Trinka Kerr, Chief Health Care Advocate, provided a handout and summary of the office's Quarterly Report for October 1- December 31, 2015. Total Call volume was about the same as the previous quarter and almost one half of total calls were related to VHC. Calls relating to difficulty in making changes ("change of circumstance") decreased in October, but rose again in November and December. The five most common reasons Vermonters called the HCA were: 1) complaints about providers, 2) VHC invoice and billing problems, 3) MAGI Medicaid eligibility inquiries or problems, 4) access to prescription drugs, and 5) VHC change of circumstance problems. Also, the number of people seeking information on dental services has increased significantly over the last year. Trinka included five case examples in the quarterly report that illustrate the type problems that are requiring assistance. Use of the HCA website also has continued to increase; there were 36% more page views this quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2014.

Discussion Items: Vermont Health Connect – Sean Sheehan

Sean Sheehan, Director, VHC Outreach and Education, provided updates on Vermont Health Connect (VHC) key activity.

2016 Open Enrollment – VHC is in the last week of open enrollment for 2016; it began on November 1 and runs until January 31, 2016. With open enrollment ending on a weekend, the Customer Support Center will be open for special extended hours on Saturday January 30, and Sunday January 31 for new enrollments only. It is important to note that the federal penalty fee for not having health insurance increases significantly in 2016. The typical uninsured individual will pay a \$695 fee when they file their 2016 taxes (in spring, 2017). Those with higher incomes will have to pay more.

Operations – Sean covered Medicaid Renewals. For Medicaid for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (MABD), redeterminations began in November, 2015 and will continue on a monthly basis into 2016. For Medicaid for Children and Adults (MCA), redeterminations will begin in January, 2016, and will continue on a monthly basis. Legacy members will be handled between January – April, 2016. VHC members will be handled between May – October, 2016. Sean also provided information on system updates, change of circumstance functionality, staffing, verifications, and Tax Forms 1095-A and 1095-B.

Metrics — Sean provided slides on system performance, and results from customer support center activity. About 9 out of 10 calls are handled by the initial representative, without requiring a transfer for resolution.

Enrollment Numbers – Sean provided the links to the December Health Coverage Dashboard and the most recent the Medicaid Program Enrollment and Expenditure Report.

Outreach & Education – Sean discussed public events that are continuing (including VHC availability at the Farm Show this week in Montpelier), new materials being distributed, and financial help available to many health care applicants.

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Members should contact VHC with any comments or suggestions on future VHC data/information presentations. Current VHC information and activities can always be viewed at www.vermonthealthconnect.gov

Discussion Items: Vermont Health Connect – Dana Houlihan

2017 QHP Proposal to GMCB -- Dana Houlihan, Director, Enrollment Policy & Plan Management at VHC, discussed the 2017 health plan proposal for the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB). A broad-based stakeholder group, including MEAB members, has met monthly since May, 2015 to develop the proposal, which will be presented to the GMCB in about a week. Dana reviewed the analysis and data that has gone into the proposal, along with the principles that the group has been guided by throughout the development process. The proposal approach has also considered: 1) strategic, minimal increases, 2) design innovations, and 3) consumer education. The current VHC plans were summarized, followed by a general review of the recommendations/changes that will be presented to the GMCB for consideration for 2017 QHP's.

Discussion Item: AHS Policy – Ashley Berliner

Ashley Berliner, AHS Policy Director, provided an overview of AHS's Health Benefits Eligibility and Enrollment (HBEE) Rule. The most recent version of the permanent HBEE rule was adopted and became effective on July 15, 2015. An emergency rule was filed and became effective on January 11, 2016. The agency is now proposing revisions to: 1) permanently address items in the emergency rule, 2) align with state legislation, federal rule, and 3) make technical corrections and clarifications. Ashley reviewed the HBEE rule timeline; there will be a public hearing on April 29, with the deadline for public comments on May 6. Specific revisions were also highlighted.

MEAB members will continue to receive alerts (through e-mail) on policy activity and be directed to the Global Commitment Register (GCR) for detailed information. Donna Sutton Fay asked that e-mails provide a brief one or two sentence highlight on what the Policy is about. If members want more specifics on the topic, they can connect into the GCR through the link provided.

Discussion Item: DVHA – Carrie Hathaway

DVHA Budget -- Carrie Hathaway, Financial Director, provided an overview of key items that are on the forefront for the SFY 2017 Budget. DVHA's SFY 2017 budget book is not available yet, but should be ready in early February. Regarding the Governor's Recommend for SFY '17, a proposal that would impact coverage for some pregnant women has been taken off the table. There is also a proposal to implement a provider assessment expansion that would apply to private practitioners, physicians and dentists. In turn, this will support improvement in specified provider reimbursement rates. On the administrative side, there is the initiative to move the DCF Medicaid eligibility staff to work under DVHA. More in depth discussion on key topics can be initiated once the DVHA budget book is available, which should be in about a week.

MEAB Discussion Item – Co-Chairs

Effective today (Jan. 25), the bulk of DVHA has relocated to new State office space in Waterbury. Some DVHA unit elements will remain here in Williston at 312 Hurricane Lane. Unless (or until) a change is initiated, MEAB meetings will still be held at 312 Hurricane Ln in

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Williston on the fourth Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22 in Williston.

The board co-chair also asked board members to consider and review potential agenda items (listed below) for the next MEAB meeting.

Public Comment Opportunity – Co-Chairs

There was public comment during the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.

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 February 22 Meeting:

- DVHA SFY '17 Update/Discussion
- AHS Policy Update

Future Meeting Topics:

- Health Care Reform - all payer model
- Medicaid Transportation – current and future budget
- Shared Savings/SIM update, including Learning Collaborative/Care Model
- 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
- Out-of-State travel
- Specialist or preferred providers
- Mental Health fee schedule changes
- Prior Authorization concerns
- Coordination of Benefits between Medicare and Medicaid

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Ongoing Small Group Works

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

Next Meeting

February 22, 2016

Time: 11:00AM – 3:00PM

Site: DVHA, 312 Hurricane Ln, Williston, VT

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

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

DRAFT