
Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2013

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Board Members Present: Bram Kleppner, Cathy Davis, Sheila Reed, Trinka Kerr, Christina Colombe (phone), Clifton Long, Donna Sutton Fay, Kay Van Woert, Laura Pelosi, Larry Goetschius, Joan Lavoie, Shannon Wilson, Catherine Hamilton, Paul Bakeman, Madeleine Mongan, Gladys Mooney, Julie Tessler, Lisa Maynes, Ellen Gershun, Sharon Henault, Susan Barrett and Dale Hackett.

Board Members Absent: Randy Cook, Tim Ford, Vaughn Collins, Michael Sirotkin and Julie Lineberger.

Other Interested Parties Present: Betty Morse, Ilisa Stalberg, Gretchen Begnoche, Rebecca Heintz, Stephanie Pigeon, Susan Gretkowski, Mary Eversole, David Martini, Margot Thistle, Cherie Bergeron, Kristen Bigelow-Talbert, David Mickenberg and Nathaniel Waite.

Staff Present: DVHA: Emily Yahr, Dana Houlihan and Clark Eaton.

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board (MEAB) September 9 Meeting Minutes
- VHC Grace Period & Reinstatement for Individuals and Small Businesses (10/7/13)
- VHC Overview and Day 7 (from Go-Live) Update (10/7/13)
- Choices for Care Health Care Oversight Committee Testimony on Savings Reinvestment (10/3/13)
- Memo: Proposed Rule Amendment – Residential Child Care Services (10/1/13)

*all are posted to the VHC website

CONVENE

Bram Kleppner and Kay Van Woert chaired the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Board Business

Following introductions, Bram Kleppner asked for adoption of the September 9, 2013 meeting minutes. The board voted to approve the September minutes, with 17 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

MEAB Work Group Updates – Work Group Chairs

Improving Access Work Group – Work Group Chair, Trinka Kerr summarized the most recent meeting on September 24 when the group further discussed and reviewed Medicaid's Prior Authorization process for obtaining Durable Medical Equipment (DME). The group identified some new potential topics to address. The next meeting will be scheduled for late October at DVHA in Williston.

Small Employer Work Group – This group has not met recently, but intends to meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss any issues that small employers have faced since the recent start-up of Vermont Health Connect (VHC). The hotline number for small employers who will be integrating with VHC is 855-499-9800.

EPSDT Work Group – The Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Work Group identified issues earlier in the year, but did not meet over the summer. The group chair,

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Wendy Davis, has recently changed jobs; Nate Waite and Kay Van Woert will re-aggregate all of the issues, and Nate will serve as the point-of-contact until another work group chair is identified. Sharon Henault stressed the importance of cross-coordination between the efforts of the Improving Access Work Group and the EPSDT Work Group moving forward to avoid possible duplication of effort.

Vermont Health Connect – Mark Larson, Commissioner

Mark Larson, Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access, described the many activities and challenges that led up to the overall successful launch of the Vermont Health Connect (VHC) system on October 1. There is much work to be done in the months leading up to January, 2014, when health care will be managed in Vermont, at full capacity, through VHC under the Green Mountain Care umbrella.

Grace Period and Reinstatement for Individuals and Small Businesses – Dana Houlihan, Director of Enrollment, discussed two important aspects of the programs to be offered by VHC starting on January 1, 2014: 1) grace periods, and 2) reinstatement of individuals and small businesses.

The grace period is that period of time after an individual or small business payment is due before coverage for the individual or small business is terminated. VHC intends to follow the Affordable Care Act (ACA) grace period requirement for individuals with Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) – a three month grace period: one month with paid claims (paid by the carrier) + two months with pended claims. For individuals with no APTC & small businesses, VHC is proposing a one month grace period with paid claims. This provides additional flexibility, but no additional risk to medical providers or facilities. Also, the ACA requires health plans to notify providers/facilities when an enrollee is in a grace period with pended claims. VHC is proposing that carriers continue with current notification practices in 2014.

Concerning reinstatement of individuals and small businesses, the VHC is proposing that there be no reinstatement for individuals following termination for non-payment. S/he must wait until the next open enrollment period (unless there is a qualifying event to re-enroll). The VHC proposal for reinstating small businesses allows for two opportunities per year: 1) following full payment of the premium due, and 2) limited to one month following the end of the grace period.

Board members asked numerous clarifying questions to better understand the impact of the grace period and the ramifications of being in a pending status. Donna Sutton Fay stressed that policies for individuals and small businesses should be similarly consistent and fair, across-the-board wherever possible. The VHC wants feedback and input on grace period, provider notification, and reinstatement; MEAB members were encouraged to send feedback and questions to Hera Bosley at VHC by the end of the day on 10/14/13. VHC's goal is to have a finalized policy for these areas by 11/1/13.

Overview and Day 7 Updates – Mark Larson reviewed the mission of the VHC and how it will allow Vermonters to compare health insurance options, enroll in a health plan, and, if necessary, secure financial assistance to help pay for care. After nearly a week's operation, more than 40,400 Vermonters have used the website and just over 2,900 user accounts have been established. VHC is continuing to make improvements to overall site performance, particularly with overall speed

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and some log-in constraints for Navigators and brokers. Premium processing and carrier integration are scheduled to go live on November 1, allowing payment electronically or by check.

Outreach – Mark reviewed the public events that are scheduled in October throughout the state by county. As of October 7, there are 224 VHC events that have occurred or are scheduled this quarter. These events include: 1) Small business, 2) General/Forums, and 3) Webinars/Presentations. Check back on the VHC website frequently for updates on all activities. Current information can always be viewed at, www.vermonthealthconnect.gov.

Choices for Care Savings Reinvestment – Stuart Schurr, DAIL Deputy Commissioner

Stuart Schurr, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), provided an overview of the DAIL Commissioner's testimony to the Health Care Oversight Committee on 10/3/13 concerning the reinvestment of Choices for Care (CFC) savings. Considering the adequacy of the CFC provider system and the directives of Act 50, DAIL is still assessing a reinvestment spending plan that focuses on three major areas: 1) ensuring capacity within the CFC waiver to continue support for rebalancing, 2) addressing inadequacies in the moderate needs group in the key areas of service limitations and access, and 3) sustainability. The Department continues to receive suggestions for spending in other areas, including a workforce development task force. Steps are also being taken to address the moderate needs group needs in advance of the budget adjustment spending plan. This includes continuing to meet with representatives from Adult Days and Home Health to refine mutual understanding of the barriers to meeting the need and to discuss plans for re-allocation in early 2014.

Kay Van Woert expressed concern that DAIL's CFC program and reinvestment opportunities are focused principally on the elderly and do not adequately address the needs of children and young adults who do not meet the state definition of developmental disability but have significant disabilities or health care needs. Sharon Henault and Julie Tessler agreed. Members also expressed a desire to hear more about a plan to get resources out soon to meet waiting list needs (for the moderate needs group). The Board will request the DAIL Commissioner brief the board at the November meeting.

Proposed Rule Amendment -Residential Child Care Services – Leslie Wisdom

Leslie Wisdom, Attorney, Division of Rate Setting, summarized a proposed change to the Division's rate setting rules for Private Nonmedical Institutions Providing Residential Child Care Services (PNMI's), which are residential treatment programs for children. The substantive change of this proposal is the transition from a budget-based rate setting methodology to a system based on allowable costs in a base year. The first base year for PNMI rates, effective 10/1/13, will be base year 2012. A new base year will be chosen on July 1, 2014 for state fiscal 2015 and every July 1 thereafter. Leslie noted that that this will be a good, balanced approach moving forward. The overview handout for the proposed rule amendment also listed details, including specifics on inflation and salary caps, rate calculations and interim rates.

Eligibility Rule Update – Steve Sease

Steve Sease, Health Policy Analyst, Economic Services Division, reported that work on the recent emergency rule on eligibility has been completed. That rule (effective October 1, 2013) is now posted on the DCF website and will be active for 120 days. The final drafts were forwarded to the

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MEAB in the last few weeks. There will be a requirement for a second emergency rule on eligibility forthcoming (it should be circulated in the next few weeks) and the final formal rule on eligibility will need to be completed sometime during the first half of 2014. Other rule changes also may be coming in the next few months. Dale Hackett asked that drafts forwarded for review in the future be in a larger type size for better legibility.

DVHA Updates – Mark Larson, Commissioner

Mark Larson provided the most current updates on a number of DVHA activities and topics.

SIM/Dual Eligibles Project Updates: Concerning Dual Eligibles, DVHA is continuing its negotiation for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CMS for a demonstration project that would allow the state to manage Medicare federal funding for beneficiaries (approximately 22,000 Vermonters) who have “dual Medicaid and Medicare eligibility.” The timeline is being adjusted to synchronize with Dual Eligibles work that is being conducted on three fronts: 1) technology (IT projects) and the creation of a new eligibility system, 2) demonstration of financial feasibility, and 3) completion of delivery system reform (within overall health care reform). DVHA, with CMS concurrence, also is continuing work to align and integrate the Dual Eligibles and State Innovation Model (SIM) projects.

Global Commitment Update: On October 3, CMS approved DVHA’s request for an extension to its Global Commitment (GC) to Health Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver. The current Waiver runs out at the end of this calendar year, and for now, the extension is for the period 1/1/2014-12/31/2016. The approval includes the update to Vermont’s Medicaid expansion program and also the state-based premium assistance program. DVHA has deferred the discussion with CMS of combining the Choices For Care (CFC) waiver with the GC waiver until after January 1, 2014.

Medicaid Shared Savings Program Update: The RFP for the Medicaid Shared Savings Program was released in early October, with proposals due back by November 11, 2013. The scheduled launch date for the program is targeted for January, 2014. The draft of the broad standards for the Medicaid Shared Savings Program was recently distributed to the MEAB. Mark highlighted the basics in the RFP and what DVHA will be looking for in the anticipated proposals.

MEAB Discussion – Board Members

Kay Van Woert asked for and reviewed potential agenda items for the November 4 MEAB meeting. Draft agenda topics are listed in the September minutes and refined below in these minutes. Vermont Health Connect updates will continue to lead the agenda over the next few months; there will be much to cover on these topics. Updates also might include, DVHA budget development, Medicaid utilization and trends, and a report on the implementation of November 1 Medicaid reimbursement rate increases. Board members asked that the DAIL Commissioner brief specifically on how Choices for Care savings would be applied. The Medicaid Shared Savings Program (including the RFP) also should be included in the DVHA updates. Trinkia Kerr reminded the Board that she would provide the next Quarterly Ombudsman Report in November. Mark agreed to check on the status of the OHSU project.

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Public Comment

On the topic of DAIL's reinvestment of CFC savings, Jackie Majoros urged DAIL to have a plan to distribute dollar resources soon to meet needs of the moderate needs group -- a topic discussed at the meeting.

Topics for Regular Update:

- Vermont Health Connect Updates
- Commissioner Updates (Budget Development, Nov. 1 Reimbursement Rate Increases)
- Duals/Sim Project Update
- GC Waiver
- Medicaid Shared Savings Program/RFP
- MEAB Work Group Meeting Reports
- Quarterly Ombudsman Report (Legal Aid)

Draft Topics for November 4 Meeting:

- Reinvestment of Choices for Care Savings
- Medicaid Utilization and Trends
- Reinvestment in Community Based Services

Future Meeting Topics:

- Health Care Reform - single payor models
- OHSU work/Guiding Principles – presentation and discussion
- Affordability and reinvestment pertaining to provider rates
- Minimizing administrative complexity for businesses that offer insurance
- Medicare supplement policies offered through the exchange

Issue Tracker List:

- Inventory of Perverse Incentives
- Diapers
- Medicaid transportation
- The complaint process
- Out-of-State travel
- Specialist or preferred providers
- Mental Health fee schedule changes
- Prior Authorization concerns
- Coordination of Benefits between Medicare and Medicaid
- Habilitative services benefits in the Exchange
- Recycling of DME Equipment

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Ongoing Small Group Work

- EPSDT Work Group
- Improving Access Work Group
- Small Employer Work Group

Next Meeting

November 4, 2013

Time: 11:00AM – 3:00PM

Site: VSAC Bldg, Winooski, VT

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

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

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