

---

**Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2016**

---

Page 1

**Board Members Present:** Lila Richardson, Donna Sutton Fay, Bram Kleppner, Amy Vaughan (phone), Kay Van Woert (phone), Rebecca Heintz, Lisa Maynes (phone), Paul Bakeman, Joan Lavoie, Vaughn Collins (phone), Michelle Fay (phone), Dale Hackett (phone), Christina Colombe (phone), Nate Waite, and Sharon Henault (phone).

**Board Members Absent:** Erin McIntyre, Laura Pelosi, Julie Tessler, Sharon Winn, Gladys Konstantin and Clifton Long.

**Other Interested Parties Present:** Jessa Barnard (VMS), Sherry Greifzu (ACHHH), Betty Morse, Bill Lambrukos, Brendan Hogan and Anne Burmeister.

**Staff Present:** Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA): Deputy Commissioner Aaron French, Deputy Commissioner Lori Collins (phone), General Counsel Howard Pallotta, Marybeth Bizarri and Clark Eaton. AHS Policy: Ashley Berliner.

**HANDOUTS**

- Agenda
- Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board (MEAB) August 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- Medicaid Pathways Presentation (9/26/16)
- Department of Mental Health Update (9/26/16)
- Vermont Health Connect Update (9/26/16)

\*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. Board members approved the meeting minutes for August 22, 2016. There were 14 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

**Medicaid Pathways –Selina Hickman**

Selina Hickman, AHS Director of Health Care Operations, Compliance & Improvement, discussed the need for a Medicaid Pathway project as the way to reach a truly integrated health system for Vermont. The All Payer Model (APM) approach is focused on an ACO delivery model for services that look like Medicare part A & B. However, the majority of Medicaid paid services (about 65%) are not equivalent to Medicare part A & B and/or will not be included in the initial ACO delivery model. To get to a truly integrated health system, AHS has to commit to delivery and payment reform for the 65% of cost that is not addressed yet through the all-payer model.

Selina described the Medicaid Pathway as a process facilitated by the State of Vermont that includes Medicaid service providers who provide services that are not wholly included in the initial APM implementation. The steps in the process include: 1) Delivery System Transformation (Model of Care), 2) Payment Model Reform (Reimbursement method, Rate Setting), 3) Quality Framework (including Data Collection, Storage and Reporting), and 4) Outcomes. Georgia Maharis, Vermont's Deputy Director for Health Care Reform, emphasized the importance of the integration piece for realizing the most efficient and effective care for

---

**Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
September 26, 2016

---

Page 2

Vermonters who are on Medicaid. She also noted that the model of care has been “consensus developed” over many years, starting with work in the dual demonstration planning group, that evolved into our prior State Innovation Model (SIM) planning work. Lila Richardson discussed the continuing difficulties that “dual eligible” are experiencing in accessing DME and some other services. DVHA is aware of these issues and is continuing to work toward solutions.

Some members expressed concern that the MEAB was not more involved or updated in the Medicaid Pathways process much sooner so that earlier input could be provided. The Medicaid Pathway work group has compiled a first draft of potential delivery and payment model reforms. The draft was published for public comment on 9/16/16 and is in the Global Commitment Register. AHS has provided a link to the Information Gathering Document and encourages board members and other interested parties to provide feedback by 10/17/16.

**Department of Mental Health Update – Frank Reed**

Frank Reed, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health, provided an overview of the Department’s services, system of care, current funding allocations, budget development and priority areas of concern for the future. The Department has five designated providers: 1) Ten Designated Agencies, 2) two Specialized Service Agencies, 3) five Designated Hospitals, 4) the State Psychiatric Hospital, and 5) a State Secure Residential Facility. Commissioner Reed reviewed the current capacity at all of the provider sites across the state, and then reviewed the statewide community programs available, including: 1) Adult Outpatient, 2) Community Rehabilitation and Treatment, 3) Children and Families, 4) Emergency Services, and 5) Advocacy and Peer Services. Children’s Programs/Children’s Community Partners receive the largest allocation (46%) of the Department’s budget. The Commissioner went on to describe the challenges/budget pressures to be faced in a level-funded budget building year. The most important initiatives to be addressed will include; 1) suicide prevention activities, 2) Peer Services expansion, 3) access to inpatient beds, and 4) earlier community supports and step down capacity. Sherry Greifzu asked if the suicide crisis text hot line was up and running. The hotline is up and running now; the contract has recently been signed. Sharon Henault stressed the importance of collecting and tracking more data on suicide in Vermont.

**DVHA Budget Development Discussion – Carrie Hathaway**

Carrie Hathaway, DVHA Financial Director, described how DVHA is now in the early timeline of the SFY ’18 budget development process. The first round of recommendations was submitted to AHS on 9/23/16. Budget development meetings at the administration level will start to occur in early October. It will be a budget neutral exercise; new initiatives will need to go through a separate process. The implications of adjusting Medicaid services to meet budget needs (particularly optional services) are weighed into the process at this time. There have not been significant cuts of any ongoing optional services in recent years.

**Vermont Health Connect Update – Sean Sheehan**

Sean Sheehan, Director of Outreach and Education at Vermont Health Connect (VHC), provided update slides on VHC’s integrated system for Medicaid and QHP enrollment. Sean reviewed Transitioning Population Notices (generally, Age-Offs at 65) for those on Qualified Health Plans (QHP’s) and for those on Medicaid. Donna Sutton Fay pointed out that the field has been experiencing more difficulty with this process than indicated here. Lori Collins felt confident that

---

**Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
September 26, 2016

---

Page 3

things are occurring as indicated at this point in time. Unfortunately, the meeting was cut short due to time constraints and Sean was unable to complete the VHC presentation. VHC's System and Operational Metrics, Open Enrollment 2017, Medicaid Enrollment and Expenditures, and Expanding Coverage topics were not covered. Vermont Health Connect will be put first on the agenda for the October 24 MEAB meeting, and be allowed adequate time to cover all reporting items and address concerns.

**Public Comment Opportunity – Co-Chairs**

There was no public comment during the meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM.

**Topics for Regular Update:**

- Vermont Health Connect Quarterly Update
- Commissioner Updates (Current Topics Discussion)
- GC Waiver (as Necessary)
- Quarterly Advocate Report (Legal Aid)

**Draft Topics for October 24 Meeting:**

- Vermont Health Connect Quarterly Update
- Blueprint: Women's Health Initiative
- DAIL Budget Development Discussion

**Future Meeting Topics:**

- Health Care Reform - All Payer Model
- Medicaid Transportation – current and future budget
- 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

**Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
September 26, 2016

---

Page 4

**Ongoing Small Group Works**

- EPSDT Work Group
- Improving Access Work Group

**Next Meeting**

**October 24, 2016**

**Time: 10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**Site: DVHA, State Office Complex, Waterbury, 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)

DRAFT