



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration

Medical Care Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 24, 2022
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: Teams Meeting

Attendees: **Council Members:** Alison Hirschel, Amber Bellazaire, Amy Zaagman, April Stopczynski, Bill Mayer, Deb Brinson, Dianne Haas, Dominick Pallone, Farah Jalloul, Kim Singh, Kristen Reese, Marion Owen, Melissa Samuel, Philip Bergquist, Salli Pung, Barry Cargill, David Herbel

Staff: Katie Commey, Lyndia Deromedi, Pamela Diebolt, Erin Emerson, Amy Epkey, Elizabeth Gallagher, Farah Hanley, Eric Houghtaling, Nicole Hudson, Laura Kilfoyle, Marie LaPres, Alymamah Mashra, Alicia McGirl, Emily Morris, Nell Newton, Deja Peterson, Mary Schrauben, Carmen Starkweather, Meghan Vanderstelt, Scott Wamsley, Jeffery Wieferich, Emily Morris, Jed Miller, Steven Prichard

Other Attendees: Virginia Gibson, Kelly Bidelman, John Ayanian, Erica Solway, Stephanie Myers, Pat Anderson, Tiffany Stone, Sarah Clark, Cathy Sunlin, Erin Beathard, Jackie Prokop

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Bill Mayer opened the meeting.

FY23 Budget Update

Amy Epkey shared that since the FY23 budget has been signed into law, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) staff have been working to utilize appropriated funds. Meeting attendees were invited to submit any questions related to budget implementation.

Healthy Michigan Plan Renewal Update

Erin Emerson provided an update on the Healthy Michigan Plan Waiver renewal process. A PowerPoint presentation was shared with attendees and the document was discussed. Formal public comments are due by October 31, 2022; however, MDHHS will continue to accept comments throughout the renewal process. Comments may be submitted to healthymichiganplan@michigan.gov. An additional public hearing will be held in September or early October and will be announced on the MDHHS website at www.michigan.gov/healthymichiganplan >> 2023 HMP Demonstration Waiver Extension Request Information.

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In response to a question about the five-year length of the waiver renewal request, Erin Emerson responded that CMS has limited waiver renewal periods to five years in the past, and 10-year extensions have only been granted to a couple of states. However, she offered the possibility of discussing a long-term extension with CMS prior to the formal submission of the waiver request in December 2022. In response to a follow-up question regarding cost-sharing requirements, Ms. Emerson noted that MDHHS is required by state law to include a request for cost-sharing provisions in the waiver application submission, but the state anticipates having a discussion on this topic with CMS staff.

In addition, staff from the University of Michigan's Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation (IHPI) shared findings from the Health Michigan Plan Interim Evaluation Report. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and the document was discussed.

A meeting attendee asked if the researchers discussed identifying and sharing best practices for the expansion of care management and community health worker (CHW) use during the interviews that were conducted for the study. In response, IHPI staff shared that while they don't recall that specific point being discussed, many interviewees shared the belief that the Healthy Michigan Plan provided the incentive for many entities to work together. One example of this cooperation that was shared is in the increased integration of behavioral health and physical health services that have taken place within the University of Michigan's Primary Care Practice.

A meeting attendee also asked if the researcher's findings indicated that beneficiaries viewed cost-sharing requirements as a barrier to receiving care. In response, IHPI staff shared that 70-80 percent of interviewees for the study found it reasonable to share in some portion of the cost of medical care. Further, some beneficiaries shared that by contributing toward their care they could expect a higher quality and standard of care.

A meeting attendee asked if language or cultural differences may act as a barrier to beneficiaries completing the Health Risk Assessment (HRA) process. In response, IHPI staff shared that while the beneficiaries that were interviewed did not have concerns with this issue, some of the providers surveyed indicated they employed staff who represent the different cultural backgrounds of their patient population to better facilitate the HRA process. In addition, IHPI staff noted that the interviews for the study were conducted in English, Spanish and Arabic to provide better opportunity for beneficiaries to voice any concerns.

COVID-19 Updates

Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension

On July 15, 2022, the Biden administration extended the current COVID-19 PHE through October 2022. States will receive 60 days' notice prior to the termination of the PHE.

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Novovax Vaccine

MDHHS staff from the Public Health Administration shared that the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for use in individuals age 12 years and older. In contrast to the other mRNA COVID-19 vaccines that are currently available, the Novavax vaccine is protein-based. It is currently available for ordering by all Medicaid-enrolled providers and is able to be stored at standard vaccine refrigeration temperatures. As of August 24, 2022, 130 doses of the Novavax vaccine have been administered in Michigan. MDHHS staff and meeting attendees continued to discuss this issue.

Long-Term Care

Special Needs Plan Final Rule for MI Health Link

On April 29, 2022, CMS released the Contract Year (CY) 2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D final rule that, in part, would require the State of Michigan to discontinue the MI Health Link program unless the State of Michigan chooses to transition the MI Health Link demonstration to a dual special needs program (D-SNP). Under these requirements, states must submit a transition plan to CMS by October 1, 2022, while the current MI Health Link program may continue to operate through 2025 during the transition period. MDHHS staff are currently working to develop a transition plan for submission to CMS. MDHHS staff and meeting attendees continued to discuss this issue at length.

Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) Health Equity Grant Update

MDHHS has received a grant from MHEF to help ensure equitable access to home and community-based services (HCBS) programs. As part of this process, MDHHS staff are currently working with partners from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University to examine data on health equity in these programs to identify strategies for improving outcomes, as well as engaging with stakeholder and advisory groups.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Update

MDHHS has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for the implementation of an EVV system for providers of personal care services, with responses due by September 16, 2022. Additional information about this process is available on the MDHHS website at www.michigan.gov/evv.

Infant Formula Shortage

Infant formula shortages continue to be an issue across the State of Michigan. The Abbott factory in Sturgis, Michigan resumed its operations on June 4, 2022, but operations were once again discontinued due to heavy rains and plant flooding. The MDHHS Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program continues to monitor different options for addressing shortages across the state, and has taken actions consistent with those of other statewide agencies to respond to

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this issue.

Monkeypox Update

MDHHS staff from the Public Health Administration gave an update on the department's response to the Monkeypox virus. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and the document was discussed.

Policy Updates

A policy update handout was distributed and the following policies were discussed:

- Proposed Policy 2210-Doula – Medicaid Coverage of Doula Services
- Proposed Policy 2223-Telemedicine – Telemedicine Policy Post-COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

In addition, MDHHS is working to develop policy to enroll Community Health Workers (CHWs) as a new Medicaid provider type as required by language included in the FY23 budget.

General Updates

A meeting attendee requested that future updates be provided regarding the change to attending/ordering/referring claim editing that was referenced in bulletin [MSA 21-45](#).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.