



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Services Administration

Medical Care Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: Zoom Meeting

Attendees: **Council Members:** Amy Zaagman, Alison Hirschel, Amber Bellazaire, April Stopczynski, Barry Cargill, Bill Mayer, David Herbel, Dianne Haas, Ellen Sugrue Hyman (MI Oral Health Coalition), Farah Jalloul, Chris George (for Amy Hundley), Jason Jorkasky, Jean Ingersoll, Jim Milanowski, Kim Singh, Kristin Reese, Philip Bergquist, Mary Schrauben, Lisa Dedden Cooper, Linda Vail, Dominick Pallone, Salli Pung

Staff: Brian Keisling, Christina Severin, Cindy Linn, Kate Massey, Katie Commey, Kim Hamilton, Lisa Grost Marie LaPres, Pam Diebolt, Penny Rutledge, Scott Wamsley, Tom Curtis, Kristina Leonardi, Jon Villasurda, Jared Welehodsky, Jen McDonald

Other Attendees: Randy Hannan, Lindsay McLaughlin, Renee Topolski, Rich Farran, Jackie Prokop, Cathy Sunlin, Tiffany Stone

MI Kids Now Feedback Forum

Staff from Martin-Waymire began the meeting by facilitating a feedback forum for the MI Kids Now initiative.

Department Updates

Kate Massey shared that, in an effort to streamline services to residents of long-term care facilities, the Medical Services Administration has merged with the Aging and Adult Services Administration within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to form the Health and Aging Services Administration. The only organizational change that was made as a result of this merger was in the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Support. Scott Wamsley has been named director of this bureau, which now oversees the Operations and Aging Network Support Division, led by Cindy Masterson, Home Help Section, led by Michelle Martin, Integrated Care Division, led by Pam Gourwitz, and the Community Living Supports & Long-Term Care Policy division, led by Kristina Leonardi.

Budget Update

Farah Hanley shared the following budget updates:

Medical Care Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Page 2

FY22

MDHHS staff are currently negotiating with the legislature on a potential supplemental bill to allocate funds from a federal COVID-19 non-discretionary grant.

FY23

Governor Whitmer is expected to release an executive budget recommendation for FY23 in the first or second week of February 2022. Information on the department's priorities for FY 23 will not be available until the legislature meets in January 2022 for the FY23 Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference.

Benton Harbor Water

MDHHS staff from the Public Health Administration shared information on lead contamination of water in Benton Harbor. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and the issue was discussed.

FY22 Budget

Health and Aging Services Administration staff gave the following updates on the implementation of the FY22 budget:

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Eligibility Extension for Sickle Cell

Effective October 1, 2021, CSHCS eligibility is expanded to allow individuals age 21 and above who have been diagnosed with sickle cell disease to be enrolled in CSHCS coverage. Individuals over 21 years of age with sickle cell disease who have previously aged out of CSHCS coverage or others wishing to enroll in CSHCS may do so by submitting a medical report and completed CSHCS application (MSA 0737).

Direct Care Worker Wage Increase

Direct care workers employed by skilled nursing facilities, adult foster care homes, area agencies on aging and their contractors, and homes for the aged that provide personal care services will receive a wage increase of \$2.34 per hour in FY22.

MI Choice & Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Slots

The FY22 budget also included \$19 million to add 1,000 slots to the MI Choice Waiver program, and to lift the enrollment cap from the PACE program. In response to a question about the potential need for additional MI Choice Waiver slots in the future, Scott Wamsley indicated that the focus to date has been to ensure that resources are in place to serve current MI Choice waiver beneficiaries, but that MDHHS will assess the impact of the current expansion on reducing or eliminating the waiting list for MI Choice Waiver slots to determine if

Medical Care Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Page 3

additional expansion is needed.

Aging Programs

MDHHS staff are working to update existing grants for aging programs to incorporate COVID-19 premium pay authorized by the FY22 budget. In addition, the department is also closely monitoring the federal budget process in order to anticipate the total amount of combined state and federal support that will be available for aging services.

Ambulance Rates

Effective November 1, 2021, ambulance rates are increased to 100% of Medicare rates for Medicaid Fee-for-Service and Medicaid Health Plans.

Private Duty Nursing (PDN) Increases

MDHHS has received funding to increase the PDN reimbursement rate by 10%.

Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies – 12 Month Postpartum Coverage

Brian Keisling shared that although beneficiaries cannot lose Medicaid eligibility while the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) is in place, MDHHS has received state budget authorization to expand postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months. Because of federal legislation that is in place, this change cannot be implemented at the state level before April 1, 2022.

Information Technology Upgrades

MDHHS has received authorization and funding in the FY22 budget to implement an Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system for providers of personal care services.

Long-Term Care

Changes to Non-Available Bed Plan Policy (MSA 21-43)

Scott Wamsley provided a summary of bulletin [MSA 21-43](#) – COVID-19 Response: Changes to Non-Available Bed Plan Policy, and the issue was discussed.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Plan

MDHHS is in the process of working with the University of Michigan Center for Health Research Transformation (CHRT) and public sector consultants to gather feedback on an environmental scan from other states related to HCBS and Long-Term Care Services. This feedback will be used to inform the department's plan for utilizing ARPA funds to improve delivery of these services.

Medical Care Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Page 4

COVID-19 Updates

Extension of the COVID-19 Vaccine to Ages 5-11

MDHHS staff from the Division of Immunization shared information on extending COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to children ages 5-11. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and the issue was discussed.

Employer Vaccine Mandate

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an interim final rule on November 5, 2021 establishing health and safety standards for 21 different provider types, which includes the enforcement of a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all employees of the affected provider types.

Post-Public Health Emergency Guidance

In preparation for potential end of the COVID-19 federal PHE, MDHHS has convened workgroups across multiple agencies of the department to develop project plans for winding down emergency measures that have been put in place. The work groups will develop project plans for the following areas:

- Renewals and redeterminations
- Level of Care Determination realignment
- Coordination of information between MDHHS and the Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS)
- Assessing the impact of the conclusion of the public health emergency on policy changes that have been implemented in response to COVID-19

The PHE is currently extended into April 2022, and MDHHS staff are continuing to monitor federal guidance for updates.

Home Testing Policy

MDHHS staff are developing a policy to update COVID-19 testing guidance. The policy update will indicate that MDHHS follows testing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and will also include guidelines for coverage of COVID-19 home tests, effective for dates of service on and after August 30, 2021.

National Governor's Association (NGA) Best Practices Collaborative on Opioid Strategies

MDHHS staff from the Division of Policy and Planning presented information on the Department's efforts to respond to opioid use disorder (OUD). A PowerPoint presentation

Medical Care Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Page 5

was provided and the issue was discussed.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Update

Jon Villasurda from the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration shared an update on the implementation of CCBHCs in Michigan. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and the issue was discussed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.