



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Services Administration

Medical Care Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: **Council Members:** Farah Jalloul, Jeff Towns, Barry Cargill, Alison Hirschel, Amber Bellazaire, Amy Zaagman, April Stopczynski, Bill Mayer, David Herbel, Jim Milanowski, Jason Jorkasky, Kristin Reese, Marion Owen, Robert Sheehan, Salli Pung, Lisa Dedden Cooper, Phillip Bergquist

Staff: Leslie Asman, Katie Commey, Pam Diebolt, Christopher George, Brian Keisling, Phil Kurdunowicz, Marie LaPres, Cindy Linn, Kate Massey, Jackie Prokop, Penny Rutledge, Mary Schrauben, Pam Diebolt, Amanda Chrysler, Jon Villasurda, Scott Wamsley, Heidi Loynes

Other Attendees: Sierra Hollingsworth, Cathy Sunlin, Erin Mortensen, Renee Topolski, Tiffany Stone, Virginia Gibson, Amanda Murray, Kelly Bidelman, Kaitlyn Anderson

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Alison Hirschel opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Medical Services Administration (MSA) Leadership Update

Kate Massey shared that Penny Rutledge has been named director of the Bureau of Medicaid Care Management and Customer Service, and that Scott Wamsley, acting director of the Aging and Adult Services Administration, has agreed to assist MSA in an acting role with leadership duties over the Bureau of Long-Term Care Services and Supports.

MI Kids Now (KB v. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [MDHHS]) Update

Phil Kurdunowicz gave an update on the progress of the MI Kids Now initiative to improve MDHHS' delivery of behavioral health services to Medicaid-eligible children with a specific focus on Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services. A PowerPoint presentation was provided, and the issue was discussed.

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Long-Term Care

Update on Long-Term Care Facility Visitation

A meeting attendee relayed several concerns from nursing facility residents and their families regarding continued visitation limitations. In response, MDHHS staff indicated that the department establishes visitation guidance based on direction from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and that any complaints or concerns regarding nursing facility visitation rules should be directed to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) or the MDHHS Public Health Administration. MDHHS staff and meeting attendees continued to discuss this issue at length.

Requesting Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Funding Available Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Kate Massey shared that one provision of ARPA allows for a temporary 10 percent increase in Federal Matching Assistance Percentage (FMAP) reimbursement to offset the additional costs states incur in the process of transitioning nursing facility residents to home and community-based settings in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). This FMAP increase applies for both Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care plans. Under this provision, states will accrue the enhanced FMAP on existing expenditures between April 1, 2021 and March 2022. The enhanced matching dollars will then be placed by CMS into a state-specific account that will be available to use until March 31, 2024. As a condition of receiving the enhanced FMAP rate, states must submit a plan to CMS for how the additional funding will be utilized. MDHHS has submitted its initial plan for CMS review, and is working to conduct stakeholder outreach for input on subsequent updates.

Home Help Policy – 40-Hour Cap

Proposed Policy 2132-HH was issued for public comment on July 22, 2021, and discusses a 40-hour weekly limit on payments for home help services provided to one client. The public comment period closes on August 26, 2021, and interested parties are encouraged to submit any feedback they have on the policy. MDHHS staff will analyze the input that is received and consider the comments for inclusion in the final policy.

Direct Care Workforce Advisory Committee Update

Scott Wamsley shared that MDHHS has sponsored an advisory committee to address a shortage of direct care workers in Michigan. Some of the issues the committee will examine include wages, retention, training, credentialing, and career paths for direct care workers, with subcommittees organized to address specific topics. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Wamsley confirmed that the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) is involved in this effort as well.

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COVID-19 Updates

Post-PHE Guidance

Jackie Prokop shared that while the COVID-19 PHE remains in place, Medicaid beneficiaries may not lose eligibility unless they move out of state, become deceased, or request to be removed from Medicaid coverage. In December 2020, the Trump administration released guidance directing that once the PHE ends, states must resume the eligibility redetermination process within six months. If states determined during the PHE that a beneficiary no longer met traditional eligibility criteria, this guidance indicated that upon the conclusion of the PHE, the states must immediately send the affected beneficiary a letter informing them that they are no longer eligible for Medicaid coverage. In August 2021, the Biden administration released new guidance directing states to resume the eligibility redetermination process within 12 months after the end of the PHE. As an update to previous guidance, states are directed to process all eligibility renewals using the most recent beneficiary information available, regardless of any previous determinations made during the PHE.

CMS Emergency Rule - Mandating Vaccination of Nursing Home Employees

On November 4, 2021, CMS issued a new rule requiring that all non-exempt nursing home employees at facilities participating in Medicare and Medicaid must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no later than January 4, 2022. Many details of the rule are not yet known, but will be shared at future MCAC meetings when available. MDHHS staff and meeting attendees continued to discuss this issue at length.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations/Governors Executive Directive

Terri Adams, director of the MDHHS Division of Immunization, shared an update on long-term care COVID-19 vaccinations, including information on ACIP recommendations for certain individuals to receive an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. A PowerPoint presentation was provided, and the document was discussed.

Immunization Update

MDHHS staff shared that the department is engaging in outreach to encourage parents to ensure their children up-to-date on all needed vaccinations, in part to mitigate the effects of rising COVID-19 cases in Michigan on the state's healthcare system.

Policy Updates

Michigan's State Demonstration Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) initiative

Jon Villasurda gave an update on the implementation of the CCBHC initiative. A PowerPoint

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presentation was provided and the issue was discussed.

Community Health Workers

In response to an inquiry, MDHHS staff emphasized the important role that community health workers play in assisting Medicaid beneficiaries with navigating the healthcare system. Because of the important services they provide, the department continues to look for ways community health workers can be utilized to best serve the needs of Medicaid beneficiaries.

Fee Schedule Updates - COVID Booster Medicare Rates

MDHHS issued bulletin [MSA 20-75](#) on December 23, 2020, which indicated that during the PHE, COVID-19 vaccine products will be made available to providers at no cost, and that COVID-19 vaccine services will be reimbursed at 100% of Medicare rates. In accordance with [MSA 20-75](#), the department is continuing to update rates for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes related to administration of vaccine services as the information becomes available. Provider specific fee schedules can be accessed on the MDHHS website at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Billing & Reimbursement >> Provider Specific Information. Meeting attendees were invited to submit any questions related to COVID-19 vaccine services to MSAPolicy@michigan.gov.

General Updates

Jackie Prokop shared that enrollment in the Healthy Michigan Plan is continuing to increase over the course of the PHE, and that as of August 26, 2021, 937,025 beneficiaries are enrolled in the program.

Future Agenda Items

For future meetings, an attendee suggested including a discussion of updates on the implementation of legislation regarding “do not resuscitate” orders that was signed into law in 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.