



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

OASAC Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee Meeting

March 10, 2020 (Approved June 9, 2020)
1:00- 2:00 p.m.

Chicago Location: IDoA Conference Room
160 N LaSalle St., 7th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Springfield Location: IDoA Offices (at DNR Building)
One Natural Resources Way
Rock River Conference Room
Springfield, IL 62702

Members in Attendance:

Paula Basta, Director, Illinois Department on Aging
Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director, Illinois Department on Aging (Chair)
Pat Curtis for Kelly Cunningham, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Marla Fronczak, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Marsha Johnson, Community Care Systems, Inc.
Lori Hendren, AARP
Dave Lowitzki, Lowitzki Consulting
Gabriela Moroney, Illinois Department of Human Services
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association

Department on Aging staff:

Aster Bowden, Samantha Brill, John Eckert, Kimberly Flesch, Sophia Gonzalez, Jason Jordan, and Amy Lulich

Guests:

Meghan Carter and Mark McCurdy (HFS)

Members Unable to Attend:

Darby Anderson, Addus HomeCare, Inc.
Anna Moeller, State Representative
Terri Bryant, State Representative
Iris Martinez, State Senator
Dave Syverson, State Senator
Ann Irving, AFSCME Council 31

Welcome & Introductions

Lora McCurdy, IDoA Deputy Director and Subcommittee Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. All members, guests and IDoA staff in Chicago, Springfield and on the phone introduced themselves.

Approval of December 10, 2019 Subcommittee meeting Minutes

Lora McCurdy, asked for a motion to approve the December 10, 2019 meeting minutes. David Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes. Marsha Johnson seconded. No corrections or changes were noted. All members voted in favor. The approved minutes will be posted on the IDoA website.

Review Quarterly Report Data & Trends

Kimberly Flesch, IDoA Data Analyst reviewed the Quarterly Enrollment report updated with data as of February 21, 2020. Flesch shared that the percentage went down slightly for all PSA's and it is unknown if the decrease was an effect of the application enrollment process. IDoA continues to work with HFS on an analysis and continues to receive a list of names every month to distribute to the CCUs for follow up. McCurdy asked Marsha Johnson to share her CCU experience with the applications. Johnson shared that applications are taking 90+ days to process and they are having problems figuring out spend-down amounts. Another problem is that the new IES system information is not readily available for the CCUs and that is challenging. McCurdy asked if more training would be a solution. Gabriela Maroney stated that she would check with Leslie McCulley for a possible joint training on spend-down. McCurdy suggested having a cross training with DHS and IDoA. Johnson added that training on Spousal Impoverishment for community-based services would also be beneficial. Samantha Brill, IDoA Legislative Liaison stated that it would be nice if there was a basic general understanding of the process of applications that is consistent across the state. McCurdy suggested a refresher training with a panel presentation including IDoA, DHS, and HFS. Lori Hendren added that a simple flow information flow chart from start to finish would be helpful. Pat Curtis stated that she thought that could be put together.

HFS Update on Medicaid Omnibus Legislation (PA 101-0209), & Enrollment

Pat Curtis shared that there are two parts to the Exparte Redeterminations. The first part is a cushion that ACA gives states that is related to income only, Reasonable Compatibility. The Reasonable Compatibility percentage was an increased to 10% effective May (it used to be 5%). Reported income is compared to electronic income. For example, if a client reports \$900 a month of income, which is below the standard and a review of electronic income is below the standard, then you are done. A second example provided was that if the reported income is below the standard and the electronic income is above the standard but within 10%, it is also ignored. However, if the reported income is below the standard and the electronic income is above the standard (more than 10%), the client case is not canceled without first contacting to request an explanation by a certain date. McCurdy asked if there was an impact estimation for CCP, but Curtis responded that there was no numerical study and no projection. Curtis additionally shared that the Exparte Renewal Report final version was posted on the HFS website. She noted that there is a potential for reasonable electronic sources for redeterminations, with the use of federal approved electronic sources but they are trying to find more electronic sources. The second part is ABS, a federal law asset verification system approved in January 2018 but has not been fully integrated into the IES system because workers needed to be trained to use it. It will be fully integrated into IES in July 2020. ABS is adding an additional way of getting more hits from banks

regarding assets using this direct search system. Previously there the response back was not very effective. Currently there is no other approved electronic source for asset searches. Other systems used by the state include AWVS for employer searches. ABS will complete property/real property searched for the 102 counties in the state. Curtis shared that this has been a problem with the AABD community and LTC, since there is a 5 year look back requirement. She noted that during the next meeting, HFS may be able to report on the number of Rede's completed to see if this system was effective. Curtis stated that these changes will be included in manual releases and training being offered to help understand the new policy.

DHS Update on Hubs, New Hiring & Statewide Processing Centers

Gabriela Maroney provided an update on the DHS' strategies for LTC processing that had previously been presented by CoreyAnne Gulkewicz. Moroney shared that HUBs are clusters of local offices that specialize in LTC benefits and that the Statewide Processing Centers provide the back-end work for HUBs. There are 213 caseworkers in HUBs that are dedicated to LTC as of the end of December. An additional 23 caseworkers were hired in January to work in the HUBs. Twenty positions will be posted for HUBs, but additional space is required for these positions. Currently there is one Statewide Processing Center (SPC) that is a pilot project for Medicaid. An additional two SPCs will be opening in this year. A Granite City SPC will open next week that will have 30 caseworkers and in Fall 2020 another SPC in Anna will open with 120 caseworkers. Maroney additionally shared that DHS is creating more capacity to work, providing additional trainings for caseworkers, and piloting new procedures to streamline the process and work on the backlog. It was also clarified that SPCs are not local offices. Lora McCurdy asked about staffing increases at local offices. Maroney confirmed the increase in staff across all FCRCs.

Medicaid App Report Uploader

John Eckert shared that implementation of the Medicaid App reporter uploader has been a longer process than anticipated. The initial uploader was designed and tested but needed numerous changes. Eckert shared that Mary Gilman will work with selected CCUs to do a field test. Marsha Johnson asked is the front sheet copy of the application will be uploaded. Eckert confirmed that the front sheet would be copied or uploaded. Lora McCurdy added that the uploader would be used as proof and assist in tracking that would enable IDoA to know when an application was completed and submitted. David Olsen asked if it was expected that the uploader would be more efficient in tracking. McCurdy clarified that currently IDoA is not able to track these applications, unless they are submitted through the ABE system. Eckert added that this would be one more step that Care Coordinators have as verification when applications are lost.

Other Issues & Announcements

Lora McCurdy shared that the next meeting is scheduled for June 9th.

Adjournment:

David Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marsha Johnson seconded. All members voted favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.