



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

OASAC Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee Meeting

January 26, 2020
1:00- 2:30 p.m.
(Approved on June 8, 2021)

Call in option: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access Code: 177 077 5373#; then press # again

Video System option: Please see Outlook invite to join by video

Members in Attendance:

John Eckert for Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director, Department on Aging (Chair)
Pam Winsel for Kelly Cunningham, Department of Healthcare & Family Services
Darby Anderson, Addus HomeCare, Inc.
Marla Fronczak, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Marsha Johnson, Community Care Systems, Inc.
Dave Lowitzki, Lowitzki Consulting
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association
Meg Lewis for Ann Irving, AFSCME Council 31

Department on Aging staff:

Rhonda Armstead, Mike Berkes, Samantha Brill, Kimberly Flesch, Sophia Gonzalez,
Jason Jordan and Amy Lulich

Guests:

Meghan Carter (Legal Council for Health Justice). Robin Morgan (HFS), and Trish Rodriguez

Members Unable to Attend:

Paula Basta, Director, Illinois Department on Aging
Lori Hendren, AARP
Anna Moeller, State Representative
Terri Bryant, State Representative
Dave Syverson, State Senator

Welcome & Introductions

John Eckert welcomed everyone to the meeting. All members, guests and IDoA staff in Chicago, Springfield and on the phone introduced themselves.

Approval of September 8, 2020 Subcommittee meeting Minutes

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2020 meeting minutes. Marsha Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Darby Anderson 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

Status of Medicaid Enrollment:

Kimberly Flesch went over the Quarterly Enrollment Report and shared that there has been a growth in Medicaid for both CCP and MCO. She mentioned that the growth may be due to CCP and Medicaid not terminating services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Flesch clarified that we are not sure if HFS has a plan to restart terminations. Amy Lulich added that the Department is waiting for guidance regarding terminations once the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinds. Lulich shared that the PHE was just extended and the Biden administration recently enacted to extend the PHE for the rest of 2021. Flesch shared that the Enrollment Trend handout shows the CCP-Medicaid percentage by PSA beginning from September 2018. She noted that from August through January there was not much growth. However, in January 2021 we were at 74% CCP and MCO, which is high. The Medicaid percentages shared on the graph bar make it easier to see the increase. The first line graphs on page 2 show more people coming up and some fluctuations in PSAs 04 and 08. The second line graph added shows that the percentage is still growing but there has not been much change since August. Flesch stated that it would be interesting to continue to watch these percentages after the PHE period ends. Marsha Johnson stated that in PSA 04 there has been a huge increase in the number of individuals reaching out needing services. She asked if the enrollment trend covers 5 quarters; November 2019 through January 2021. Flesch confirmed that it does that period. Darby Anderson asked the Department if it is possible to keep the information from September 2018 through November 2019 and continue to track monthly. David Olsen commented that tracking this trend is important to see if the change is due to this initiative. Anderson asked if the initiative also applied to the non-Medicaid population. Flesch confirmed that it does include non-Medicaid and added that there are only terminations in some cases. She also shared that the percentages will be skewed later when we go back to normal. Anderson commented that that this shows a 10% increase and that is good. He noted that in PSA 06, Quincy, is showing 84%. What is Quincy doing that they are doing so good. He asked the Department has calculated what the savings are for the State of IL in dollars. Flesch shared that the Department cannot access that information for the MCOs; the information received from HFS has a delay. Medicaid claims cannot be claimed until it goes to the Comptroller and payments are delay. Anderson indicated that with additional validation and higher enrollments there may be an increase in savings. Flesch can check that data, she should be able to check ISL report that shoes CCP claims under general revenue.

Medicaid Report Uploader Implementation

John Eckert shared that the CCUs continue to enter these reports into the Medicaid Uploader and Russ Kemple, CIO will look into those numbers,

Adding direct links on the Aging website to HFS & DHS (ABE & SNAP)

Mike Berkes shared that the Department will be increasing the links available in our Aging website. IDoA will be sharing links with DHS and HFS. IDoA has had a revised and enhanced website for 18 months and now we are refreshing the website to provide links to sister agencies. There will also be a link to the ABE application. The Department hopes that by adding these links the website can be viewed as one front door. Amy Lulich added that the State Plan for 2022-2024 was submitted at the end of 2020 and we are waiting on the approval. The State Plan includes goals and outcomes that include expanding services and supports to older adults. Specific to this committee,

goal 3 refers to maximizing federal, state, local, and private resources to sustain and expand services and supports to older adults. One of the strategies for goal 3 is to identify other barriers, submit Medicaid applications, and work with HFS to overcome these barriers. The Department looked at the Aging website and noticed that there is no link to the ABE application. In trying to continue to provide the No Wrong Door service and connect seniors, the Department continues trying to find other ways for older adults to identify links to apply for Medicaid.

PHE extension and possibility of extending Appendix K

Pam Winsel, Division Manager for Waivers Dept at HFS, explained that Appendix K is an amendment to the current approved waiver that allows flexibilities during emergency situations. The original Appendix K was approved in May and the start date was January 2020. The PHE was extended past the one year and a revised Appendix K was approved last week. The Appendix K will be extended to 6 months after the PHE ends. President Biden will continue to extend the PHE through 2021. Appendix K will possibly continue through 2022, based on it being extended for 6 months after the PHE ends. Winsel clarified that we may be able to revise flexibilities, such as telephone reassessments, as guidance is received.

Public Comment, Other Issues & Announcements

John Eckert shared that the subcommittee has one vacancy as Senator Martinez has retired, and that our legislative liaison has been in contact with the Governor's Office to coordinate replacement with the Senate President. Marla Fronczak asked if we have alternative goals for this subcommittee; i.e., if we want to hit a certain benchmark on saving money as Darby Anderson has mentioned. Eckert reminded everyone that the subcommittee focus was to try to increase the number of people on Medicaid and compile Quarterly Reports through 2023. The main goal is to make sure that more people eligible for Medicaid apply with the updated policies and increased outreach efforts. Kimberly Flesch stated that we are always going to have non-Medicaid participants because of the CCP asset limit. David Olsen mentioned that he appreciates to continue to meet to keep those numbers in mind to not only serve people better but also save money. Marsha Johnson shared that she thinks we should continue to meet because when the PHE ends we are going to have a lot of people fall off and we need to be proactive. Mike Berkes suggested looking at priority areas and the services provided prior to the pandemic.

Adjournment:

David Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marsha Johnson seconded. All members voted favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.