



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

OASAC Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee Meeting

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

Call in option: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access Code: 133 572 4217#; then press # again

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

Members in Attendance:

Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director, Illinois Department on Aging (Chair)
Pam Winsel for Kelly Cunningham, Illinois 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

Department on Aging staff:

Rhonda Armstead, Mike Berkes, Aster Bowden, Samantha Brill, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Kimberly Flesch, Sophia Gonzalez, and Amy Lulich

Guests:

Meghan Carter (Legal Council for Health Justice)

Members Unable to Attend:

Paula Basta, Director, Illinois Department on Aging
Lori Hendren, AARP
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 June 9, 2020 Subcommittee meeting Minutes

Lora McCurdy, asked for a motion to approve the June 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Dave Lowitzki 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

Status of Medicaid Enrollment:

Kimberly Flesch shared that overall Medicaid enrollment has increased. She shared that the MCO and Medicaid increase may be due to the non-termination of services during the COVID-19 emergency period. The numbers in all categories have increased but the Medicaid numbers have increased more in the last quarter. The increase can be seen on the chart showing the CCP and MCO Medicaid percentages by Planning and Service Area (PSA); 71.9 % in May and 73.8% in August. There has been a 9% growth in Medicaid within the last 2 years and the charts show we are doing well with enrollments. All PSA's except 04, 07 and 08 have had increases. PSA 07 had a slight decrease in the last 3 months. These graphs show each PSA percentages over time. Lora McCurdy shared that each PSA defines how the Department divides service areas and mentioned that PSA 04 is the Peoria area; PSA 07 includes Sangamon county and PSA 08 includes the Madison county area. Flesch shared that the line graph shows a good picture of the increase in general. For example, PSA 13 (suburban Cook county) had quite a lot of growth. Flesch shared that a new graph has been shared that marks out each quarter, including that the MCO percentage has also been increasing. Dave Lowitzki commented that the data was well done. Lowitzki suggested that there was a need to figure out how to tell the story to the legislators. David Olsen seconded Lowitzki's suggestion and stated that the Department and the CCUs had done a great job. Olsen offered if his organization could be of any help. Lora McCurdy responded that the Department would support the messaging and added that the increase may also be due to the Mandatory Medicaid Policy and the rate increase.

Medicaid Report Uploader Implementation

John Eckert shared that the FY20 Mandatory Medicaid updated policy and the Using Report Uploader for Medicaid Verification documents was shared with the subcommittee members as a guidance for this implementation. These were the documents that have been shared with the CCUs. The Department plans to launch the Medicaid Report Uploader in September. During the next meeting the Department should be able to report on these numbers. The Medicaid Report Uploader will only be used for Medicaid applications completed for initial assessments. Eckert shared that the rate increase has helped push this initiative. The uploader took a long time, Mary Gilman and Kimberly Flesch worked with the CCUs on registering and beginning to enter reports. Lora McCurdy added that she was happy to see the Report Uploader implemented and to have more data and share in the future.

Activities to maintain CCP participant eligibility & ensure health, welfare & safety during COVID-19

Appendix K:

Lora McCurdy shared that the Department has had good collaboration working with Pam Winsel, HFS waivers manager on submitting the Appendix K and getting approval. Mike Berkes agreed and that both him and Amy Lulich have been collaborating with Winsel. Berkes added that Appendix K sits in 1915(c) waiver and does not get utilized unless there is an emergency or natural disaster and having a waiver manager is a true blessing because it provides operational flexibilities in light of the pandemic. Berkes explained some of the flexibilities that have been added to the Elderly waiver. These include adding remote platforms to services. The CCUs have been completing assessments and reassessments via telephone. Additionally, the CCUs have been obtaining verbal attestation in place of signatures during the pandemic. The ADS providers have been delivering remote services. All trainings have been changed to

remote platforms. Another flexibility that has been allowed is spouses and legal guardians can be in-home care aides for CCP. Berkes added that the Department is looking to keeping this option after the Public Health Emergency period that ends January 2021. Priority one APS services have returned to FTF and some priority two cases. Berkes states that the Department would have been in a very difficult spot if there had been no flexibilities during the pandemic. Amy Lulich added that she appreciates the feedback received from other calls. Lulich shared that the 1st Appendix K was approved in May, but there is a second round of Appendix K that has been submitted on August 31st. More information can be found on the HFS website. Additional guidance for training the in-home worker has also been shared with the network. Pam Winsel added that the Appendix K Public Health Emergency (PHE) period ends in October 2020. McCurdy added that it is expected that the PHE period will be extended. Winsel added that extension periods are approved for only for 90 days at a time.

Federal CMS Guidance – No reduction or termination of services during COVID-19 emergency:

Lora McCurdy shared that federal guidance has been received to continue providing access to services for older adults during the emergency period. Amy Lulich shared that notifications regarding continuance of service have been shared with the CCUs, notices were sent out on May 6, May 18, and June 4th. This information has also been made available on the Department's provider profile. The guidance includes clarifications that there are some acceptable termination reasons that can be used during this period. These termination reasons include being deceased, moving out of state and choosing a different waiver. This guidance was put out to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities continue to have access to services during this Public Health Emergency period. Lulich shared that there has been some confusion with this guidance but advised that keeping the best interest of the older adults in mind is best.

Guidance on return to FF Visits:

Lora McCurdy shared that the Department has been meeting virtually with seven different workgroups to discuss returning to FTF visits. In addition, the Department has collaborated with IEMA in providing PPE for AAA's, APS, CCUs, and in-home providers. One of these groups meets with the Regional Ombudsman. Some of the ADS providers are in the middle of re-opening. Chrystal Alexander has been meeting with ADS providers to discuss reopening plans. The ADS providers are required to submit re-opening plans to the Department before re-opening. A total of 16 ADS sites have re-opened as of August and an additional 12 are awaiting approval. The APS workgroup has discussed returning to FTF visits as well. APS has begun initiating FTF visits for all priority one cases and some priority two. The CCU workgroup is led facilitated by Mike Berkes, John Eckert and Amy Lulich and they are currently working on a guidance to return to FTF visits. Berkes shared that the CCU Workgroup has met four times, they do not have all the answers and therefore the guidance is not complete. The guidance is on hold due to the uptake in current COVID-19 cases and it is important that FTF visits restart when it is safe. Berkes shared that he thought that initially it would be hard to manage the workgroups, but they have been very helpful. In-home service providers provide a direct service and have continued FTF visits safely. Eckert added that the Department has received very good feedback from these workgroups. Once there is a return to FTF visits, there will be a priority for those individuals who had a remote assessment with high scores and those who have not had a phone assessment. Eckert shared that there are a few exceptions for CCUs to complete FTF visits, if needed.

Marsha Johnson commented that she has participated in these workgroups and appreciates that the Department has taken into consideration that each area of the State is different. Lora McCurdy shared Senior Centers have also re-opened and AAA's have been doing a lot of virtual outreach. Marla Fronczak asked if phone assessments are being completed for all referrals, including anyone needing or wanting services (HDM) or just CCP. Berkes responded that he does not know of any assessments not occurring right now. McCurdy mentioned that Emergency Senior Services (ESS) funds have also been available for these needs during COVID. McCurdy added that ESS can be further discussed during the next meeting. Johnson shared that her CCU has been calling all referrals and noted that they are seeing more people now. Berkes shared that the Department has assisted between two and three thousand individuals that do not receive CCP with the ESS funds. He shared that basic staples have been critically important for ESS funds, such as food, regardless of who you are. Many individuals that had not been reached before, were reached. Many people that had needs as a result of the looting in different areas were helped. Berkes shared that he will have a formal robust update on ESS for the next meeting. Several members agreed that ESS expenditure information would be beneficial. Marla Fronczak added that it would be beneficial if there was an opportunity to help people from moving to CCP, if ESS services are in place. McCurdy shared that the Department is looking into adding Assistive Technology services to the waiver and there is a good reason to have all this data from ESS.

Public Comment, Other Issues & Announcements

Darby Anderson commented that it would be interesting to look at COVID and CCU data. Specifically, the overall data in caseload trend in the year for COVID months; the breakdown of the entire State, and the MCO growth in CCP. He also asked about the caseload decline in Chicago and what might be driving that decrease. Marsha Johnson shared that there have been CCU changes in Chicago and her CCU took over one CCU that required caseload clean-up. Some of these cases had not been received any services for over 18 months and needed to be termed. Johnson shared that MCOs have been very good in getting cases terminated that have not been receiving services and communication with them has improved. Johnson added that referrals are still being received, but there is a 10-12-day delay from the city, and some are already receiving services. Johnson also shared that participants that are downstate, that were active and went out to Senior Centers are now not able to get out and do exercise, and as a result are seeing a decline in what they can do. Johnson shared that she appreciates the support of the Department and will make sure that they see the people and ensure that they get the services they need. McCurdy agreed that new CCUs have been cleaning up caseloads. Darby Anderson appreciated the insight that the individuals that were operating independently previously and now cannot. Amy Lulich shared that the Illinois Care Connections grant is providing technology devices to older adults and persons with disabilities and there are currently still opportunities to make referrals. Lulich will share links the recorded webinars and FAQ available. Lulich encouraged everyone to spread the word. McCurdy shared that the next meeting is scheduled for December 8th.

Adjournment:

Darby Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marla Fronczak seconded. All members voted favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

