

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
COVID Dental Subcommittee Minutes
December 2, 2020

PARTICIPANTS:

Jose Jimenez, HFS
Christina McCutchan, HFS
Shelly Defrates, HFS
Dr. Mona VanKanegan, DPH
Dr. William Simon, Illinois State Dental Society
Dr. Jason Grinter, Onsite Dental
Dr. Kathy Shafer, SIU Dental School
Dr. Henry Lotsof, Henry, Avesis
Dawn Fehr, Orland Park Dental Service
Dr. Luciana Sweis, Dental Caravan
Dr. David Trost
Dr. Mahamid Khan, Alivio Medical Center
Dr. Flavia Lamberghini, Apple Dental Care

Update on the CARES Act portal:

Jose Jimenez welcomed and updated subcommittee members on the status of the online applications, timeframes to review the CARES Act applications for compliance and accuracy. Jose Jimenez stated that applications would be approved the week of December 7th, after getting grant agreements signed by the dental providers, HFS would be issuing payments to Dental providers the week of December 14th. Jose Jimenez explained that the funding could be used to secure new items, PPE to support operations related to COVID19 expenses up to December 31st. Jose Jimenez also mentioned that the portal received approximately 100 applications and 75 of the were fully completed and submitted to the Department. Christina McCutchan and Jose Jimenez explained that many providers applied as a group, so the 75 applications represented a larger number of providers.

Dr. Jason Grinter shared the difficulties securing PPE and other needed technology with only few weeks left in 2020. Jose explained that the timeframe was imposed by the Federal CARES Act legislation and that HFS had no flexibility with the deadline.

Dr. William Simon stated the need to work with the MCOs and the association contact to improve the communication and collaboration with all dental providers (FFS and MCO). Christina McCutchan explained that the Dental Advisory Board could only impact work related to the FFS population.

Dr. Jason Grinter suggested to do a provider capacity assessment by utilizing the FFS and MCO claims data for the last 2 years and potentially draft a survey to dental provider to better understand the COVID-19 impact to dental program across the State. Christina stated that could be arrange the claims data for the January advisory meeting.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan from IDPH recommended to have a discussion with the MCOs about their network capacity at the MCO meeting.

Communication:

Dr. Mona VanKanegan would like to explore the possibility to get an updated email list from IDFPD to create a more accurate way to connect and communicate with all the Medicaid dental provider. Jose stated that we would still need to work with the MCOs to communicate with the Dental providers that only do work with the MCOs or the dental providers that only do work with the MCO health plans.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan also suggested to be added to the HFS/MCO agenda to discuss the dental program and current COVID-19 issues.

Current Capacity concerns:

Dr. Mona VanKanegan asked if the MCOs had to do capacity assessment regularly. Jose Jimenez stated that this was a requirement for the MCOs. Mona would like to obtain a copy of the capacity assessment from the MCOs. Jose Jimenez will ask Bureau of Managed care about the possibility to obtain these records.

Dr. Flavia Lamberghini stated that 69% of the children are not seeing the dentist currently due to COVID-19 restrictions. Jose asked for any documentation that would help us understand the access to care issue related to COVID-19. Dr. Flavia Lamberghini said that the information came for a Dental Quest capacity survey completed recently. HFS will ask for the survey results and share them with the Board.

Dental School Program:

Dr. Luciana Sweis requested HFS to edit the provider notice to open the funding source and allow the school programs to work directly with the local school districts and reopen the program with limited capacity for the schools that are working under a hybrid model. Dr. Mona VanKanegan stated that the CDC just released new guidance that would support these efforts. Mona shared the guidance during the call. Jose committed to review this possibility for the second semester.

New codes for Care Coordination Management:

Dr. Flavia Lamberghini would like to open the Care Coordination management code (D9992) to assist families to have access to dental care and other dental referrals for oral surgery in hospitals. Jose asked if this code was part of the recommended codes. Dr. Flavia Lamberghini

said no but it was considered in the past. Jose will look into this and the board may be voting on this code and to formally add it to the recommended list due to the COVID-19 necessity.

Dr. Flavia Lamberghini wanted to explore the possibility to also add pregnant women and children up to age 6 to the fee schedule to assist with preventive care due to COVID-19.

Dr. Jason Grinter will be the committee chair presenting this report to the Advisory Board in the January meeting.