

MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MCAC) TELECONFERENCE MEETING
1985 Umstead Drive, Kirby Conference Room 132, Raleigh, NC 27699

JANUARY 18, 2019

TELECONFERENCE: 919-662-4658

The Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) met via teleconference on Friday, January 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

ATTENDEES

MCAC Members in Person: Gary Massey, MCAC Chairman

MCAC Members via Telephone: Marilyn Pearson, MCAC Vice-Chairman, Kim Schwartz, Samuel Clark, David Tayloe, III, Benjamin Smith William Cockerman, Ivan Belov, Chris DeRienzo, Casey Cooper, Billy West, Jr., Linda Burhans, Thomas Johnson, III, David Sumpter, Paula Cox Fishman, Benjamin Koren, Jenny Hobbs

MCAC Interested Parties via Telephone: Sarah Pfau, Kristen Dubay, Valerie Arendt, Steve Owen, Tara Fields, Ames Simmons, Lee Dobson, Mary Short

NC Medicaid Staff: Dave Richard, Sandy Terrell, Debra Farrington, Nancy Henley, Larhonda Cain, Terri Pennington, Lynette Harris, Sharlene Mallette, Pamela Beatty

CALL TO ORDER

Gary Massey, MCAC Chair

- Gary Massey, MCAC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. followed by the roll call of the members by Pamela Beatty. Quorum declared. Chairman Massey welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation. Chairman Massey called for a motion to approve the minutes for MCAC meeting held on December 14, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris DeRienzo. Marilyn Pearson seconded the motion. The Committee approved the December 14, 2018 MCAC minutes.

OPENING REMARKS

Dave Richard, Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid

- Dave thanked the MCAC members for their participation and contributions. Dave stated that NC Medicaid is engaged across all facets of the transformation process. Staff is working extra hours to complete the work that must be done to meet commitments and timelines, while doing a terrific job of running the day-to-day operations of Medicaid.
- Dave provided the following key milestones for the Medicaid program:
 - Effective January 1, 2019, adult optical benefits were restored to Medicaid beneficiaries.
 - The General Assembly also gave the Medicaid agency the flexibility to adjust rates and reimbursement, provided we can do so with our available resources.
- An increase in reimbursement rates for the following service categories has been prioritized: However, a State Plan Amendment (SPA) must be sent to CMS and the details worked out for approval.

- Primary Care Physician (includes obstetrician, gynecologists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants)
- Dental Services
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
- Direct support staff across all the programs and the equity questions that currently exist could not be addressed at this time.
 - Primary physician rates were raised, which includes OBGYN, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants; however, these rates are not being paid yet.
 - Chairman Massey inquired about issuance of the retroactive payments. Dave stated that he would keep the Committee updated each month on the status.
 - David Tayloe stated that there is a lot of excitement in the provider community regarding the rate increases. He stated it will also be a positive benefit for the Medicaid program as it may increase access to Medicaid because more providers will participate due to the higher rates.

MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION UPDATE:

Debra Farrington, Chief of Staff, NC Medicaid

Debra provided a Managed Care Update including the following:

- Policy papers to be released over the coming weeks and months
- Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs) awards and next steps.
- Status of the Tailored Plans design
- The Department anticipates that the Standard Plans RFP award will take place in early February. MAXIMUS (EB) is on schedule to release welcome packets to beneficiaries starting in June 2019. Various communications regarding the timeline for Managed Care will be sent to the beneficiaries beforehand by the Department. There will be a separate provider engagement plan to educate providers.
 - Open enrollment is scheduled for mid-July – mid September 2019
 - Managed Care is scheduled to go live on November 2019
 - Tailored Plans will go live in July 2021.
- DHHS is working closely with MAXIMUS to review engagement strategies between DHHS, beneficiaries, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).
- The Ombudsman's program has been finalized and procurement will be formally initiated in the coming weeks. The Ombudsman will provide the following support to beneficiaries: (1) information and education, (2) referrals, (3) Issue resolution and (4) Oversight of complaints/problems and trends encountered in the system.
- Advanced Medical Homes (AMH)
- Providers were asked to attest to Tier 3 by the end of January 2019. Many providers have attested but the Department is working to get as many providers to attest to Tier 3 as possible by January 31, 2019.
- The Department awarded a contract to Wipro Infocrossing to serve as the Provider Data Contractor (PDC) to identify the credentialing status of providers contracting with Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs).
- Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs) will be awarded in early February 2019. Various press releases, documents, and notifications will be sent to our legislative contacts, key associations, and stakeholders in the communities. A kickoff and onboarding of the PHPs will follow. Information will be available on the website as well.
- Chairman Massey asked if the PHPs will be available for the March 8, 2019 face-to-face MCAC meeting? Dave responded that it could be arranged.
- Release of Policy Papers in February and March 2019:
 - Healthy Opportunities Pilots
 - NC Medicaid Managed Care Quality Policy Papers
 - Behavioral Health and I/DD Tailored Plan Concept Paper

- The Department will host a Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan webinar on Thursday, January 24, 2019 from 11:00am -12:00 noon. The topic will focus on the integration of behavioral and physical health.
- The Department will implement provider engagement strategies to support and educate providers about Managed Care. Details of the plan will include the following:
 - Orientation about Managed Care and how Medicaid beneficiaries will make the transition
 - High risk pregnancy care management and outreach for the local health departments
 - Healthy Opportunities
 - Behavioral Health Integration training
 - Healthy Opportunities
 - Advanced Medical Home (AMH) training
 - Web-based trainings, webinars, FAQ's, and virtual office hours will be available for providers to contact key staff to answer questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public comments will no longer be reflected in the MCAC Meeting minutes. Instead, they will be posted separately to the MCAC web page under the respective meeting date. Please send your public comments to Pamela Beatty after each meeting.

CLOSING REMARKS

- Chairman Massey thanked everyone for their participation. Next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2019.
- Chairman Massey advised those that wish to be recognized for participating in the meeting to send an email to Pamela Beatty. Chairman Massey also reminded the Committee members, who have not done so, to please send the requested documentation to comply with the IRS ruling regarding Boards and Commissions.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:30 AM**