



**MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MCAC) 2ND QUARTER MEETING MINUTES
NCSU MCKIMMON CENTER, 1101 GORMAN STREET, RALEIGH NC
June 16, 2023 (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)**

(Hybrid Meeting w/Microsoft Teams Access)

Participant Call-in (by audio only): +1 984-204-1487, Access Code: 858 416 078#

MCAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Massey, MCAC Chair, Samuel Clark, David Tayloe, Benjamin Smith, Thomas Johnson, Steven Small, Ivan Belov, Paula Cox-Fishman, Trent Cockerham, Jenny Hobbs.

STAFF PRESENT

Jay Ludlam, Melanie Bush, Adam Levinson, Sandra Terrell, Ericka Johnson, Kristen Dubay, Arianna Keil, LaQuana Palmer, Maya Burt, Pamela Beatty, and a host of other staff members participated via Teams.

INTERESTED PARTIES

Trish Farnham, Guest Speaker, Jonathan D'Angelo, Mike Laraway, Pam Perry, and a host of others participated via Teams.

CALL TO ORDER

Gary Massey, MCAC Chair

- Chairman Massey called the MCAC meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023, and reminded participants to review the Clinical Policy Written Reports and Proposed State Plan Amendments included in the meeting materials. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared by Pamela Beatty. The March 17, 2023, MCAC meeting minutes were approved by the Committee.

OPENING REMARKS:

Jay Ludlam Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid

- Jay opened with a “thank you” to the MCAC members, community partners, and others for their consistent support and hard work in helping the State get Medicaid Expansion passed. Noted there are conditions associated with moving forward with its passage. CMS must approve all paperwork and the state budget needs to be enacted.
- Medicaid has been monitoring a 900-page set of rule changes that are being proposed at the federal level with 60 days given to read through and give comments. We are contemplating how the changes will affect Medicaid’s policies.
- Announced the approval of Medicaid’s former Foster Youth SPA which provides youth who age out of foster care in any state with Medicaid coverage to continue receiving Medicaid through the age of 26.
- Chairman Massey opened the floor for questions.

NC MEDICAID CONTINUOUS COVERAGE UNWINDING /MEDICAID EXPANSION UPDATE

Melanie Bush, Chief Operating Officer, NC Medicaid

- Melanie discussed two major initiatives currently happening at NC Medicaid.
- As of March 2020, Medicaid stopped terminating individuals from the program. There was a federal law that required Medicaid to provide continuous coverage. Recertifications were conducted; however, NC Medicaid has not been terminating anyone or reducing benefits.
- Federal law signed on December 29, 2022, instructed states to begin the Medicaid Unwinding process.
- North Carolina started the renewal/recertification process on April 1, 2023.
- First terminations will take place the end of June 2023. The federal government gave states 14 months to complete terminations and renewals.
- Medicaid has updated outreach efforts to better assist beneficiaries with providing up-to-date information for renewal and terminations. Efforts include mass text messages, robo calls, and emails. The Department is using multiple

modalities to reach out just to make sure that folks are not losing their coverage because they did not receive the request for additional information

Medicaid Expansion (ME):

- Governor Cooper signed the bill into law in March 2023. It is anticipated that 600 individuals will gain access to healthcare coverage. ME will cover individuals between the ages of 19 and 64 with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. We are doing outreach to low-income workers, parents, low-income childless adults, some veterans and families, and beneficiaries who previously applied for benefits but were denied.
- 92% of beneficiaries are estimated to enroll in Standard Plans.
- 7-8% of beneficiaries are estimated to enroll in Tailored Plan or NC Medicaid Direct.
- Less than 1% of beneficiaries are estimated to enroll in Tribal Option.
- Less than 1% of beneficiaries are estimated to enroll in NC Medicaid Direct.
- Chairman Massey opened the floor for questions. Melanie responded to all questions.

MEDICAID ENROLLMENT AND FINANCIAL UPDATE

Adam Levinson, Chief Financial Officer, NC Medicaid

- Adam shared the monthly Medicaid enrollment by category and change since start of the public health emergency (PHE). Total growth is approximately 800,000.
- Including family planning, we are at approximately 3,000,000 members enrolled in NC Medicaid.
- Medicaid is currently spending within budget and anticipate having a surplus in funding at the end of June 2023.
- Chairman Massey opened the floor for questions. Adam and Jay Ludlam responded to questions.

NC MEDICAID TAILORED CARE MANAGEMENT (TCM) UPDATE

Kristen Dubay, Chief Population Health, NC Medicaid

- Kristen opened by stating despite the delay, we are moving forward with the launch of the Tailored Care Management model. Our focus is on care management to ensure individuals in the Medicaid program have a single care manager helping to integrate and coordinate their physical and behavioral care across the spectrum.
- Approximately 150k members are expected to move into Tailored Care Management (TCM) plans.
- Over 70 advanced medical home (AMHs) and care management agencies (CMAs) are certified with additional providers in the pipeline.
- Over 30% of TCM-eligible members are assigned to care management at AMHs and CMAs.
- The Department has worked with our partners to address concerns from providers and PHPs regarding Tailored Care Management.

Tailored Care Management Updates:

- New Forum for Provider Feedback: The Department is in partnership with AHEC to set up a new forum to collect provider feedback.
- Additional Capacity Building Funding: The Department is working to identify additional capacity building funds to support provider stability.
- Extending TCM Blended Rate: The Department extended the blended rate to maintain payment stability, rather than making major changes to payment methodology AMH and CMA workforce as previously planned on July 1, 2023.
- Blended Rate extension will continue on from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
- TCM Priorities and Provider Stabilization: The Department is exploring additional strategies to address TCM challenges.

CONSUMER ASSESSMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS (CAHPS) SURVEY RESULTS

Dr. Arianna Keil, Chief Quality Officer, NC Medicaid

- Arianna opened by sharing a very high-level overview of the framework of NC Medicaid's quality strategy. There are three main goals as part of our quality strategy: 1) better, 2) healthier people and communities, and 3) smarter spending.
- NC Medicaid will use a quality tool annually called the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey to obtain members perspectives on their healthcare experiences. The data will feed into our quality strategy.

- 2022 CAHPS survey was administered to over 2300 adults and children in the five Standard Plans: AmeriHealth, Carolina Complete, Healthy Blue, United Health Care and Well.
- The Department looked at four specific NC Medicaid populations:
 - SP Enrollees receiving Behavioral Health Services
 - American Indians or Alaska natives enrolled in EBCI Tribal Option
 - Members receiving care through Medicaid Direct
 - Medicaid Direct enrollees projected to be eligible for Tailored Plans (TPs)
- In summary, Arianna shared results of the CAHPS survey and stated it is a really critical tool for the NC Medicaid program to receive input from members because their voices are needed. NC Medicaid’s investments are to improve the health of North Carolinians and welcome.

DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE (DCW) UPDATE

Trish Farnham, North Carolina Coalition on Aging

- Trish opened by stating that the Coalition on Aging supports a collaboration of providers and interest of stakeholders to come under the Essential Care network to focus on essential jobs and direct care. Trish introduced guest, John D’Angelo, who spoke on the DCW issues and self-direction.
- John emphasized the CMS federal proposed rule that Jay and Arianna alluded to earlier in their presentations. John highlighted key elements throughout the proposed ruling that impact the direct care workforce issue and crisis. One of the key elements is the severity of the “shortage solution” with the DCW and its effects on individuals with disabilities who need assistance. John further stated the DCW shortage issue seems to be consistent with Medicaid and the MCAC’s interests, he hopes that Medicaid will consider integrating the recommendations regardless of the position of the rule. Trish closed by thanking the Medicaid team for their investment in matters that help people with disabilities, older adults and family caregivers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Sabrena Lea announced that NC Medicaid received approval for CAP/C Renewal.
- Talley Wells commented on the attention that MCAC and Medicaid are bringing to the Direct Care Workforce and its commitment to Olmstead and to the people who may need direct care.

CLOSING REMARKS

- Chairman Massey reminded MCAC members of next meeting on September 15th which will be virtual via MS Teams.

MEETING ADJOURNED