

MO HEALTHNET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2020
Via WEBEX Conferencing

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present:

Bridget McCandless, Co-Chair
Gerard Grimaldi
Joe Pierle
Kaylyn Lambert
Mark Stringer, DMH Director
Nick Pfannenstiel, Chairman
Randall Williams, DHSS Director
Representative Jon Patterson
Representative Tracy McCreery
Sara Oerther
Senator Jill Schupp
Todd Richardson, MHD Director

Members Not Present:

Carmen Parker-Bradshaw
David Ott
Ingrid Taylor
Mark Sanford
Sam Alexander
Senator David Sater

DSS Staff:

Angela Wilson, MHD
Caitlin Whaley, DSS
Darin Hackmann, MHD
Gail Luecke, MHD
Glenda Kremer, MHD
Jennifer Tidball, DSS

Josh Moore, MHD
Kirk Mathews, MHD
Leann Hager, MHD
Nate Percy, MHD
Patrick Luebbering, DFAS
Tony Brite, MHD
Valerie Huhn, DMH
Donna Siebeneck, DMH

Guests:

Abby Barker, Washington Univ.
Abigail Charlier
Alex Rankin, MFH
Alisa Gordon, Milliman
Allen Rankin
Ally Siegler
Ashley Byrd
Audrey Rattan
Brian Kinkade, MHA
Cara Hoover
Chris Moody, HB Strategies
Crystal Thomas, KC Star
Daniel Landon, MHA
David Winton
Divya Arulsamy
Erin Colgan
Eva Cook
Geoffrey Oliver

Heidi Geisbuhler Sutherland, MSMA
Henrio Thelemaque, MPA
Jackie Schmitz, Senate Staff
Jennifer Colozza, Conduent
Jessica Petrie, Winton Policy Group
Jim Moody, HB Strategies
Joe Miller, CHC Strategies
Katie Reichard, MPCA
Kylie Ahrendsen, Accenture
Leslie Henry, Blessing Health System
Leanne Peace, DCI
Luke Boehmer, Conduent
Lyndsey Cavender, MFH
Megan Fast, Conduent
Megan Price, Senate Staff
Melissa Wolf
Nina Nguyen
Nora Bock
Oliva Wilson
Olivia Rush
Rhonda Petz
Robert Groeneveld
Ron Fitzwater
Sandy Gu
Shantel Dooling, MSMA
Sherry Scanlon, St. Luke's Hospital, KC
Susan Henderson-Moore
Tim McBride, Washington Univ.

Handouts from the meeting are located on the web at: <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/oversight/meeting.htm>

AGENDA

Welcome/Introduction/Approval of Minutes

- Dr. Nick Pfannenstiel called the meeting to order at approximately 12:08 p.m. The committee approved the minutes from the May 28, 2020 meeting.

Director's Update (available online)

- Todd Richardson, MO HealthNet Director reviewed a report showing the number of participants taking advantage of the school-based non-IEP services by county. Approximately 12,000 participants utilize

Approved: 11/12/20

these services in the schools with a wide distribution from our urban centers to some very rural communities. Over \$581,000 in claims have been paid on non-IEP school-based services for behavioral health.

- **Comment:** Dr. Bridget McCandless inquired about the type of questions the school districts have asked as they venture into this new billing arrangement with the State.
 - **Action Item:** Jessie Dresner will provide the information to the committee.
 - **Comment:** Representative Tracy McCreery asked if the school districts are able to use Telehealth or is it only in-person for behavioral health.
 - **Comment:** Mr. Richardson confirmed that they are able to use Telehealth.
- Mr. Richardson gave an update on the Medicaid COVID-19 response. ***This presentation is available on line.*** Young adults are now the largest age group of COVID-19 cases. Fighting COVID in nursing homes remains the State's top priority.
 - **Comment:** Dr. McCandless asked for an update on how COVID is affecting the care of incarcerated individuals.
 - **Comment:** Director Richardson said this has been a key focus across the state. There have been over 30,000 tests done in 22 Department of Corrections' facilities with 200 testing positive at last count. The overall picture of the State's direct care facilities shows there have been over 46,000 tests conducted with approximately 322 being positive. Two key points to take away from this is (1) the ability to keeping the positivity rate fairly low, (less than 1%); and (2) the reason the positivity rate is staying low is the ability of identifying the positive cases early and isolating those affected quickly.
 - **Comment:** Kaylyn Lambert asked how COVID has affected enrollment.
 - **Comment:** Mr. Richardson said that an increase in enrollment, not necessarily an increase in new applications, is being driven by changes in processes in what the state is and is not able to do.
 - **Comment:** Senator Jill Schupp asked if the Oversight Committee would have any input regarding the schools starting.
 - **Comment:** Mr. Richardson agreed this is a big issue; however, does not feel it would be a platform for the Oversight Committee.
 - **Comment:** Gerard Grimaldi asked if any analysis had been done with the positivity rate in regard to race and ethnicity.
 - **Action item:** Mr. Richardson said he would pull the data and share that with him.
 - Senator Schupp inquired about the waiver on Extended Women's Health Services. MO HealthNet is currently accepting comments for this waiver. Her understanding is that the waiver places restrictions on providers and the services they can administer for women. She asked if anything is going to be done to revise the waiver so that people can get the quality care they need from a provider they trust at a reasonable cost.

Mr. Richardson informed the group that the public hearing was held on August 17 and that the deadline for comments was September 3. This waiver is funded out of general revenue with no assistance from federal participation. We are committed to having a robust women's health program and to get what federal financial participation we can to help with the cost to the state.

- **Comment:** Dr. McCandless asked how we anticipate Medicaid expansion affecting this program when it goes into effect next July when, in theory, there will be more people on full Medicaid.

- **Comment:** Mr. Richardson said that the expansion would not only affect this waiver but other waivers and programs as well, such as the one regarding substance abuse and M.O.M. grant.
- **Comment:** Representative Tracy McCreery said that whatever the outcome is, we need to make sure we do not create additional obstacles that would prevent participants to seek the care they need and to see who they want.
- Mr. Richardson updated the Committee on current transformation projects underway and completed. ***This presentation is available online.***
 - **Comment:** Mr. Grimaldi asked if we had a timeline for the Outpatient Simplified Fee Schedule.
 - **Comment:** Mr. Richardson said the timeline had been delayed due to the COVID response but we plan to have it this fiscal year.
 - **Comment:** Senator Schupp expressed her concern about the elimination of grandfathering certain medications. She asked that in the case where a drug was working well for someone, if they would still have to go through the process of trying other recommended drugs.
 - **Comment:** Mr. Richardson advised the only grandfathered classes being eliminated were those they felt to be appropriate and would not jeopardize patient care.
 - **Comment:** Senator Schupp asked what the process would be if a person and their doctor felt, they needed to stay on a medication that is not on the preferred list.
 - **Comment:** The Prior Authorization Review Board reviews every drug once a year by reviewing a different set of classes quarterly. The process is open to public comment, input and revision. For the exception process, the state uses a combination of state staff and an external vendor. The external vendor has an online system that is available to people where they can see how the list works or they can call the Pharmacy Help Desk.
- Mr. Richardson gave an update on the Business Intelligence Solution – Enterprise Data Warehouse (BIS-EDW). Our goal is to have better management and use of information; make better decisions; better outcomes for the State and our citizens; and future scalability for the Missouri Medicaid Enterprise. ***This presentation is available online.***
- Mr. Richardson gave a brief overview on Medicaid Expansion. The first component is the eligibility requirement change that will go into effect July 1, 2021. The second major component of the constitutional language is that the health benefits service package has to be equivalent to the minimum benchmark plan set by federal law and the last is the requirement that the MHD and Department of Social Services submit the necessary State Plan Amendments and waiver requests to CMS by March 1, 2021. The MHD is working through the major issues which include working on the budget authority with the General Assembly, having the necessary state operations and systems in place to handle enrollment pieces to make sure we execute all necessary regulatory changes on both the state and federal level; and continued outreach and communications with our various stakeholders.
 - **Comment:** Dr. McCandless asked if the work on the expansion would delay any of the timelines associated with the transformation projects.
 - **Comment:** Mr. Richardson said it should not. In fact, looking at what the expansion will bring creates a larger sense of urgency to do some of these transformation projects (i.e. payment methodology and application process).
 - **Comment:** Dr. McCandless asked if there would be some areas where expansion would become purely income based and no longer with all of the categorical requirements. Would this make it

easier for the state to administer since you no longer have to do disability determinations and other aspects.

- **Comment/Action Item:** Mr. Richardson advised he would need to follow up. His understanding is we have to keep the same basic eligibility categories as before. We cannot use this as a tool to reduce eligibility in certain areas; that is part of the ACA. The expansion will not present the opportunity to move away from some of those categories.

Dr. Abigail Barker advised she would also send Dr. McCandless an email with some information. Mr. Richardson said he would follow up with some information that Pat Luebbering, Director of DFAS, put together as well and get it out to the committee.

- **Comment:** Mr. Grimaldi asked if we anticipated any systems issues with eligibility or any other systems going forward.
- **Comment:** Mr. Richardson advised that we probably would run into some issues; however, we should have a plan in place to deal with them.

Chief Transformation Officer's Update

- Kirk Mathews, MHD Chief Transformation Officer presented an update on the Missouri Benefits Transformation Project (formerly known as Civilla). Civilla came back with their recommendations and estimated impact. Mr. Mathews said that the funding is in place for this project. The project will be rolled out into two or three pilot programs (rural, suburban, and urban areas) rather than the whole state at once to ensure it runs smoothly. ***This presentation is available online.***

Chief Operation Officer's Update:

- Jessie Dresner, MHD Chief Operation Officer, presented an update on COVID-related emergency waivers and disaster state plan amendments (SPA) and flexibilities with the Managed Care Plans. ***This presentation is available online.***

An update on Telehealth was also given. Telehealth relieved a lot of anxiety with personnel as well as patients. Feedback from providers indicated they preferred it and it reduces no shows. Some of the challenges with Telehealth included lack of internet or spotty internet for some, clients not having adequate equipment, lack of the personal component. The MHD has also convened a working group to help write a potential state regulation and MHD policy. They plan to utilize provider feedback to help provide the best guidance and instructions via webinars, a new webpage, videos, in addition to participant outreach.

- **Comment:** Dr. Pfannenstiel asked if the working group included a representative from Teledentistry.
- **Action Item:** Ms. Dresner will find out and respond back to him.
- **Comment:** Mr. Grimaldi asked if the department has any insight on utilization usage through the MCO post COVID during the pandemic and how significant a drop they encountered.
- **Comment:** Mr. Richardson clarified that the drop in utilization that we are seeing is claims based. There was a 60-90 day delay in the data received in June/July. We will continue to rerun the analysis and look at the utilization. On the acute and physical health side, we expect to see a decline followed by a significant ramp up. We will continue to evaluate and validate the data to see if that is still the case.

Legislative Update:

- Caitlin Whaley, DSS Legislative Liaison, reviewed the legislation that directly affects MO HealthNet.
 1. HB 656 creates access to developmental disability services for our military. We will be working with the Department of Mental Health to implement waiver services for these individuals.
 2. HB 14 instructs the Department to formalize a SPA to make homeless youth eligible for MO HealthNet.
 3. The FRA was approved for one year and we will work on that in the upcoming 2021 session.
 4. Will be working on and answering questions regarding the expansion as well in the coming months.

Budget Update:

- Tony Brite, MHD Finance Director, reported on the maintenance of efforts with the public health emergency and how it has affected the budget. ***This presentation is available online.***

Public Comment:

- There were no public comments.

Family Support Division (FSD) Update:

- Jennifer Tidball, Acting Director of DSS, presented the FSD Update. There has been a decline in applications as is common in other states. Part of the reason is that many states had some restrictions to being able to drop coverage. The moratorium on the ability to remove people from Medicaid during the health emergency does affect the enrollment/caseload trends. If the state of emergency is not extended in October, the annual renewal process will start in January. ***This presentation is available online.***

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12.