

MO HEALTHNET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2020
Via WEBEX Conferencing

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present:

Todd Richardson, MHD Director
Nick Pfannenstiel, Chairman
Bridget McCandless, Co-Chair
Sara Oerther
Kaylyn Lambert
Representative Tracy McCreery
Gerard Grimaldi
David Ott
Representative Jon Patterson
Joe Pierle
Jackie Schmitz for Sen. Jill Schupp
Donna Siebeneck for Mark Stringer
Jennifer Tidball, DSS Acting Director

Members Not Present:

Sam Alexander
Mark Stringer, DMH Director
Mark Sanders
Senator Jill Schupp
Ingrid Taylor

Carmen Parker-Bradshaw
Randall Williams, DHSS Director

DSS Staff:

Leann Hager, MHD
Gail Luecke, MHD
Jessie Dresner, MHD
Tony Brite, MHD
Kirk Mathews, MHD
Josh Moore, MHD
Darin Hackmann, MHD
Kim Evans, FSD

Guests:

Abby Barker, Washington Univ.
Tim McBride, Washington Univ.
Cory McMahan, DMH
Gina Heinen
Daniel Landon
Ally Siegler
Alyssa Graycochea
Leslie Henry

Alexander Muller
Ron Fitzwater
Brian Kinkade
David Winton
Eva Cook
Erin Colgan
Jennifer Colozza
Allen Rankin
Ashish Kumer
Chris Moody
Crystal Thomas
Jack Gamble
Joe Miller
Lyndsey Cavender
Megan Price
Olivia Rush
Audrey Rattan
Katie Reichard

Handouts from the meeting may be found on the web at: <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/oversight/meeting.htm>

AGENDA

Welcome/Introduction/Minutes/Director's Update

- Dr. Nick Pfannenstiel called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. The February 13, 2020 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Director's Update (available online)

- Todd Richardson, MO HealthNet Director, first reviewed follow up items from the February 13 meeting:
 - Dr. Pfannenstiel had inquired if MO HealthNet (MHD) had the ability to find out what schools were billing for non-IEP services. Mr. Richardson explained that MHD could not provide the specific school where providers bill for a service. However, we could manually look at which providers are billing and provide a regional look of what school-based services were being provided.
 - **Comment:** Dr. Pfannenstiel agreed it would be interesting to look at what the actual utilization is and see if there is an opportunity to provide education on these services.
 - **Action Item:** Mr. Richardson advised an update on the progress would be provided at the next meeting.
 - **Action Item:** A more in-depth discussion regarding the waiver process, different types of waivers, home and community-based services (some are state plan services) and how the participants stay up-to-date on their status will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Kirk Mathews, MHD Transformation Director, gave an update on the Missouri Benefits Enrollment Project (formerly known as the Civilla Project). The research phase of the project is completed. After review of the report is completed, it will be made available on the website. Phase 1, which is the design and testing of a redesigned application process and redesigned set of letters, is anticipated to start on July 1, unless unforeseen COVID-19 obstacles occur. Phase 2 will consist of a brief pilot and then implementation. Research results in the report revealed a great opportunity for us to streamline not only the application but also our communications; thus, making them more consistent and clear for our participants. The current application, which encompasses all services, consists of 63 pages. The redesigned version is 16 pages for the core application and then supplemental pages if a participant, for instance, is applying for Medicaid, SNAP, etc.
 - **Comment:** Kaylyn Lambert asked where the design and testing phases would take place.
 - **Comment:** Mr. Mathews advised that the design will be across all geographic regions and the testing phase will encompass the rural, urban and suburban areas, much like the research phase that Civilla conducted.
- Mr. Richardson and Jessie Dresner, MHD Chief Operations Officer, reviewed the COVID-19 flexibilities that have been put in place regarding 1115/1135 waivers, State Plan Amendments, and Appendix K to Home and Community Based Waivers. Information on what has been approved can be found on MHD's Provider COVID-19 page at <https://dss.mo.gov/covid-19/mhn-provider.htm>. Any questions regarding details on the requests can be sent via email to mhd.covid19@dss.mo.gov. Todd asked for feedback from the committee on what flexibilities they would like to see remain permanent.
- Mr. Richardson next talked about the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). An extra 6.2% was made available for Medicaid expenditures; Missouri received 4.3% enhanced FMAP for CHIP expenditures; 100% FMAP for testing uninsured individuals. Enhanced FMAP applies to Medicaid expenditures from January 1 to June 30; however, this could be extended into future quarters if the emergency declaration is extended.
- Next reviewed were the system modifications made to the MMIS Claims Processing System during COVID-19. These include expanded telehealth services; pharmacy changes to early refill rule and some dosing limitations; co-pay and shared dispensing fee removal on COVID-19 related services; addition of new procedure and diagnosis codes; locked in eligibility at the beginning of the emergency; extended coverage for CHIP premium, spenddown and Ticket-To-Work participants regardless of payment status.
 - **Comment:** Representative Tracy McCreery asked if a participant is charged for getting a COVID-19 test. Mr. Richardson advised that co-pays for participants are waived for testing and no expenses would be incurred for treatment if that were the case.
 - **Comment:** Representative McCreery then inquired if MHD had any data on the numbers of its participants that have been hospitalized or treated outside the hospital. Mr. Richardson advised a deeper look at the diagnosis claims data could be done but do not have a breakdown as to how many had been hospitalized.
 - **Comment:** Representative McCreery's concern is that people with chronic health conditions and considered high risk are delaying going to seek medical care for these conditions in fear of contracting COVID-19. Mr. Richardson agreed with this assessment and reiterated the need to keep educating individuals, especially those with these chronic health conditions, to continue to seek medical assistance for any issues not related to COVID-19.
- An extensive provider outreach program began in late March by making weekly calls and established a provider web page and email address for COVID-19 issues, etc. We began sending messages to providers based on information from the state's coordinated response efforts and will continue to do so.

- Mr. Richardson gave an overview of the coordinated response to the Healthcare Delivery System and economic recovery. This group consists of members from every state department and community partners such as the Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Primary Care Association, and Washington University.

Dr. Abby Barker, Washington University, gave an overview of COVID-19 transmission models by region. **(These models are available on line as part of the Director's Update.)** The regional models are important because regional epidemics may differ markedly from the national average. Policy response occurs at state, county and municipal levels.

- **Comment:** Dr. Pfannenstiel asked if this is being folded into the low-growth level now that some measures are being relaxed. Mr. Richardson said that time will tell. It is a tool that can be used to see what is happening now and to predict what will happen in the future. Dr. Barker said this model gives you a look for changes in the trend. It is pulling new data every day and could eventually lead to changes in policy down the road.
- **Comment:** Representative McCreery asked if the charts included all COVID-19 patients and if there was a way tell how many would be on Medicaid. Mr. Richardson advised the data is coming directly from the hospitals and includes all COVID-19 patients. It would be hard to pull this specific information out due to the lag in delayed billing.

Legislative Update:

- Jennifer Tidball, Acting Director of DSS, reported that the majority of the legislation this session focused on child welfare. No significant legislation regarding Medicaid. Upon final review of all legislation, anything that would affect Medicaid will be brought to Mr. Richardson and the Division's attention.

Budget Update:

- Tony Brite, MHD Finance Director, gave the budget update. ***This presentation is available online.***
 - **Comment:** Representative McCreery asked if individuals who are furloughed still had access to their employer-provided health insurance.
 - **Action Item:** Mr. Richardson replied he thought that was the case but wanted to get a more definitive answer for her before he confirmed that was the case.
 - **Comment:** Representative McCreery then asked what MHD's projections were for the budget with today's current unemployment situation (more people becoming eligible for Medicaid, etc.).
 - **Comment:** Mr. Richardson replied that the Medicaid budget is constantly evolving and MHD will continue to approach changes to the budget in the same way it does in even normal circumstance, adjusting where we need to in order to meet the demands.
 - **Comment:** Ms. Tidball added that the Department has been conferring with surrounding states and they are seeing similar trends as Missouri with no significant increases in new enrollment and believe that although many individuals are unemployed, they are still being covered by their employer-provided health insurance. As a State, the Department will continue to look at all the data that could affect someone being eligible for our any of the Medicaid services.

Public Comment:

- There were no public comments.

Family Support Division (FSD) Update:

- Kim Evans, FSD Director, presented the FSD Update. ***This presentation is available online.***
- Ms. Evans reported FSD has not received the bump in applications they had expected. FSD is currently at 7000 pending applications, including MHD, SNAP and MAGI. During this period, a waiver was approved to waive doing interviews for SNAP applications. This has allowed them to repurpose their staff, which has resulted in being able to work applications within a day of receipt.

The Medicaid caseload will continue to grow until the Federal Government rescinds the Family First Act (extra \$600). Ms. Evans reported that there are only three instances when a Medicaid case can be closed: (1) moved out of state, (2) death, or (3) written request.

Ms. Evans advised that when the extra \$600 is rescinded and everything opens back up, FSD would start to take action on the groups that would have otherwise been closed (pregnant women coming off post-partum, kids aging out, etc.). There will be a caseload drop. Their federal partners are not even talking about starting to roll this back. They do have a waiver that will allow them to push out recertification periods one year.

- Ms. Evans advised that not having to do the SNAP interviews; they have been able to move their staff to different tiers. For example, Tier 1 handles generic questions; Tier 5 handles the temporary assistance and childcare cases. This also has allowed calls to be answered much quicker and their work is caught up.

Gearing up for a heavy August call volume if the stimulus money is rescinded and again in September when school starts. They have been very successful working with the schools and getting participants enrolled and information updated. Although the resource centers are not open to the public, other avenues have been made available in order to assist individuals as needed (additional staff available to answer questions; social media communications; set up a fax number and email to send applications and other paperwork; added a chat box on their web page, etc.). All these things have worked out very well.

- **Comment:** Dr. Bridget McCandless asked for an estimate of how many applications have dropped from month to month over the past couple months.
 - **Action Item:** Ms. Evans will provide this information to Dr. McCandless. NOTE: This information has been provided to Dr. McCandless.
- Jessie Dresner gave an update of the Managed Care Health plans COVID-19 response.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18. Location to be determined.