

**MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

January 25, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Shannon Hall
Ms. Robin Moore
Rachel Dodge, M.D.
Winifred Booker, D.D.S
The Hon. Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Ms. Marie McLendon
Mr. Ben Steffen
Mr. Floyd Hartley
Ms. Nicole McCann
Mr. Paul Miller
Ms. Diane McComb
Ms. Jessica Dickerson
The Hon. Pat Young
Ms. Vickie Walters
Kathryn Fiddler, DNP
Adeteju Ogunrinde, M.D
The Hon. Antonio Hayes
Ms. Maansi Raswant

MEMBERS ABSENT:

The Hon. Matthew Morgan
Mr. Vincent DeMarco
Mr. Kenneth Garove
Ms. Anna Sierra
Ms. Linda Dietsch
Ms. Nora Hoban
Mr. William Webb

Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee

January 25, 2021

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Vickie Walters, Chair, called to order the meeting of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee (MMAC) at 1:00 p.m. Committee members approved the minutes from the November 19, 2020 meeting as written.

Departmental Report and COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Tricia Roddy, Assistant Medicaid Director, provided the Committee with a combined Departmental report and COVID-19 update.

In a letter to all of the governors, the federal government informed states the federal public health emergency (PHE) will likely remain in place for the entirety of 2021, and when a decision is made to terminate the declaration or let it expire, HHS will provide states with a 60 day notice prior to termination. This is reassuring given the amount of work required to realign policy and procedures when the federal PHE ends. This means that the 6.2% enhanced federal matching assistance percentage will also likely continue through the end of December.

Prior to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sending the governors' letter, CMS announce that states could apply to extend the Appendix K waivers to 6-months after the federal PHE. Maryland officially applied to change our end date to coincide with 6 months after the federal PHE ends. Those were approved and they are on the Department's website.

Our legislative session began last week and the governor released his budget as well. Before the holidays, Governor Hogan announced that the provider statutory increases that were normally scheduled to start on July 1, 2021, would start on January 1, 2021. We have already put those increases into effect. For the long-term care services, providers received a 4% increase and behavioral health providers received a 3.5% increase. The Governor also included money in the budget for the expansion of the PACE program - approximately \$1.8 million.

The Department has received some inquiries about what has been happening with physician rates for evaluation and management (E&M) codes on the Medicare side. In the last few years, we've paid providers 93% of the Medicare rate for E&M codes. Medicare went through an initiative recently the resource value units that determine the amount of physician rates. Medicare did this on a budget neutral basis -- meaning some codes went up and some codes went down. Because generally we have just increased the E&M codes, it will be an increase for Medicaid. We are still calculating the amount of monies required to keep the E&M rates at 93% of Medicare, and we are in conversations with the Department of Budget and Management.

Public Health Update

Jinlene Chan, MD, Acting Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services gave the Committee an overview of vaccine distribution in Maryland (see attached presentation).

MDTHINK Eligibility and Enrollment New System Overview

Ms. La Sherra Ayala, Acting Executive Director, Family Investment Administration, Maryland Department of Human Services, gave the Committee a brief overview of the MDTHINK Eligibility Enrollment System (see attached presentation).

2020 Open Enrollment Update and COVID SEP

Ms. Michele Eberle, Executive Director, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange gave the Committee an update on the open enrollment and ongoing special enrollment period (see attached presentation).

Waiver, State Plan and Regulation Changes

Ms. Molly Marra, Director, Medicaid Provider Services, gave the Committee a status update on waivers, regulations and state plan amendment changes.

Waivers – The Department submitted an Appendix K to extend 6 months past the PHE. This has been approved. We also submitted and had approved by CMS three DDA waivers. Applications for the Brain Injury Waiver, Community Options and Medical Day Care Services waivers will be posted for public comment in a few days.

Regulations – Most of the listed regulations are related to rate updates. School-Base Health Center (SBHC) regulation changes are a result of legislation during the 2020 session. We will be adding physicians and nurse practitioner groups as allowable SBHC sponsoring entities. Home Health will be adding nurse practitioners as providers who can order home health services.

State Plan Amendments (SPAs) – We have a few SPAs that are moving through that are counterparts to regulations updates related to rate changes that either happened over the summer or for January 1, 2021. The Department submitted the emergency transporter supplemental payment program to leverage more federal dollars. We have a SPA in now for geographic differential for targeted case management services that we started paying on October 1, 2020. Additional submissions include Increasing Professional Dispensing Fees, Family Planning Eligibility, and Coverage for the Administration of COVID-19 Vaccinations that will allow the Department to be reimbursed at the established Medicare rate which is different than how we reimburse for other vaccinations.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Ms. Walters adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.