

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021
10:00 a.m. to noon
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6th.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Elizabeth Cameron; Laura Cordes; Cathy Dionne; Leo Delicata; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Kalie Hess; Mike Hallundbaek; Jillian Jolicoeur; Marge Kilkelly; Sarah Lewis; Vickie McCarty; Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Mary Schneckenburger; Malory Shaughnessy; Jeff Tiner; David Winslow; Susan White

Department: Olivia Alford; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; Molly Slotznick

Guests: Ellen Baker; Julie Brennan; Jen Christian; Brooke Holton; Bethany Jarvis; Temika Jones; Becca Matusovich; Beth Pearce; Pete Plummer; Angela Westhoff; Jessi Wright

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- Michelle presented a COVID vaccine update. She noted that Medicare has increased their reimbursement rates for vaccine administration. MaineCare is matching the Medicare increase of those vaccination administration rates.
- MaineCare has been working to make sure people have the information they need about how to get their COVID vaccine. The first round of communication went out to individuals in the 70 plus age group. A second round has gone out to individuals in the 50 plus age group. A third batch of letters for the 18 to 49 age group is in the works.
- There is a community vaccination phone line for Mainers who are not comfortable using the internet or who do not have internet access. The staff manning the phone line can help people figure out how to get a vaccination appointment and assist with broader needs as well. The community vaccine line # is 1-888-445-4111. The transportation line # is 1-855-608-5172.

- Grant opportunities, targeted towards reducing disparities, are available through the American Rescue Plan. The Department is currently working on an application for one of those opportunities currently.
 - Gia asked how MaineCare members are doing in terms of vaccination rates. Michelle noted she is happy to share that analysis at a future MAC meeting.

b) Rate System Evaluation: DHHS Overview With Michelle Probert

- Myers & Stauffer have concluded their portion of the project. The Department is currently looking at Myers & Stauffer's recommendations, and reviewing that information to come up with our own proposal and plan.
- Laura Cordes presented an update on the Rate Subcommittee work. The Portland minimum wage and hazard pay ordinance is still a topic of discussion, and the committee is hoping the Department is looking at how the ordinance would impact providers and members in that area. The committee is also looking at rate studies that are already queued up for the year, and they are requesting that the list be shared with all MAC members. The committee is requesting a workshop on how rate studies are conducted, particularly around how providers would look at doing the cost report.
 - Laura noted one of the ideas that came from the committee was to see if there was an interest in holding a forum regarding the implementation plan, where individuals could hear more about the plan and respond with input and questions. Michelle asked if it might make more sense to engage in conversation after the Department has a firm plan. Laura noted the committee would like to have an opportunity to present their thoughts and concerns in advance. Michelle is happy to take that recommendation back to the Department as a whole.
 - Laura asked about grant opportunities through the American Rescue Plan. The committee is requesting a short briefing. Michelle noted the Department would be happy to provide a run through of Federal match opportunities.

c) Value Based Purchasing Presentation & Questions With Olivia Alford

- Olivia presented updates on the work currently underway in the Value Based Purchasing unit. The hope is to launch Primary Care 2.0 in October of this year. The VBP unit is also evaluating the BHH model alongside comparable services and exploring the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model. Behavioral Health Homes are also under the VBP unit's purview and would like to compare how the program compares to existing Opioid Health

- Homes is also a program under the VBP umbrella. Accountable Communities program also fallen under VBP where a group of providers takes accountability for the cost and quality of care for attributed members through a shared savings model.
 - Kathy asked if VBP can be used to increase care for individuals having difficulty accessing care, or does it potentially decrease access for some members. Olivia noted it gives providers a lot more flexibility. It's intended to support engagement outreach and timely access.
 - Sarah Lewis asked if this is meant to serve those who have been left out of the current system. What are the steps the State is taking to bring those folks in? Olivia noted VBP is working on how the Department as a whole can have a transparent quality status that includes those kind of focus. It will be part of the program roadmap.

d.) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet –Jennifer Patterson**

- Jenny will be presenting an overview of the rulemaking process at a future meeting. She is also wondering if there is a way a section might be added to the report for rules in the conceptual planning stage so the MAC could have an opportunity to engage more fully in the process. She is also hoping to have a discussion with the MAC about the school based services rule that is being developed.
 - Kathy noted she will be developing a brief survey to get member's input regarding their questions on the rulemaking process to help inform what Jennifer's presentation will look like.
 - Laura Cordes would like to have waiver amendment or applications that are currently open for comments highlighted on the Rule Status Update in some way.

e.) **MAC Logistics With Kathy Kilrain del Rio**

- Kathy asked if the MAC would like to take the July and/or August meeting(s) off of the calendar. The consensus was to put the question on the agenda for May and discuss it then in order to give the MAC time to see what the Legislature might do.
- Kathy discussed creating a plan for snow days in the Winter of '21 and '22. It was agreed that the second Tuesday in December, January, and February would be set aside as an alternate MAC meeting date in the event snow days should be needed.

f.) **Wrap Up**

- Agenda for next meeting will include Michelle sharing an analysis of vaccination rates for MaineCare members.
- A sub-committee on school base services will be set up prior to the next MAC meeting. Sarah Grant will reach out to Mark and Judy to get participants for the meeting.
- The results of the survey around the rulemaking process and the rulemaking packet will be shared.

h.) **Items From Guests.**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:59.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver