

*MaineCare Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes*

December 1, 2020  
10:00 a.m. to 12:03 p.m.  
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, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

Members: Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Gia Drew ; Laurie Belden (Alt.); Esther Bullard; Laura Cordes; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Mike Hallundbaek; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Judy Seals; Jeff Tiner; Susan White, and Barb Price (Alt.).

Department Representatives: Kristin Capeless; Loretta Dutil; Aaron Fotter; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Bill Logan; Jennifer Patterson; Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick,

Guests: Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Natalie Childs; Kalie Hess; Brooke Holton; Diane Johanson; Becca Matusovich; Dan Morin; Kellie Rose; Malory Shaughnessy, and Angela Westhoff.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **DHHS Updates Related to COVID-19 With Michelle Probert and Eligibility Update with Esther Bullard.**
  - New grants have been announced that will provide financial relief utilizing CARE relief funds. Application for the grants is open to all healthcare providers, not just those with a smaller number of employees.
  
- b) **Rate System Evaluation Process With Michelle Probert.**
  - Michelle noted the Myers and Stauffer report is now available on our website.
  - The Department is holding stakeholder sessions so stakeholders have an opportunity to provide more context to the data.
  - The website also includes a document that orients people to the layout of each workbook.
  
- c) **Rates Subcommittee Meeting Updates With Laura Cordes.**
  - The sub-committee continues to meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
  - The most recent meeting included discussion around the member focus group info and stakeholder sessions, as well as the Portland minimum wage referendum results.

- The committee noted that knowing who is in a virtual room during stakeholder sessions is helpful. They encouraged the Department to create a list of people who registered for the stakeholder sessions to share with all participants prior to the sessions. They also recommended that the Department announce how many people are on the calls.
- A request was made to extend the December 9<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments by a week.
- Concern was expressed regarding access to services for MaineCare members in Portland due to the minimum wage increase. Providers are looking to relocate, as it is not feasible for them to pay 15.00 hour as well as time and a half during the pandemic.

d) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet Review Presented by Jennifer Patterson**

- Three rules have been adopted and are about to become effective: Hospital Services, Estate Recovery, and Rural Health Clinic Services.
- Jenny noted the Rate Setting Evaluation has been helpful in terms of gathering stakeholder input.

e) **Discussion re: New Portland Minimum Wage Ordinance**

- How might it impact providers, and also MaineCare members' ability to access services?
- When something like this happens, are there ways that MaineCare can look at rates and address significant changes in wages? Is that something that can be thought about in terms of the rate setting evaluation?
- Are there things that the MAC or Maine care can do to address concerns?
- Can the Department analyze how many MaineCare members are in Portland currently and how many might potentially be impacted should providers move out of the area?
- Kathy asked if there are best practices we can study based on how other states have handled similar minimum wage increases.

f) **Value Based Purchasing Update With Loretta Dutil**

- VBP is designing a new voluntary initiative for providers that will simplify the current primary care programs to a more efficient model. VBP is still having a conversation with CMS around the specifics of getting approval for the program.
- The complete presentation is posted on the Value Based Services website.

h) **Provider Enrollment Update With Aaron Fotter**

Aaron provided an update on provider enrollment. Currently, new credentialing processes are being implemented to streamline the work. The maintenance case backlog has been cut roughly in half. Gainwell Technologies, our vendor, is making significant improvements in the time it takes to complete cases.

Folks can reach out to Aaron Fotter at [Aaron.Fotter@maine.gov](mailto:Aaron.Fotter@maine.gov) with any questions.

h) **Miscellaneous**

- There is interest in a dental subcommittee, and Kathy has volunteered to chair it to get it started.
- A request was made to add a Section 28 update from OCFS to the agenda for next meeting.

- Agenda items for the next meeting will be requested in about 2 weeks, but can be sent to Kathy at any time.

j) **Items From Guests**

None.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver