

*MaineCare Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes*

January 5, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 11:48 a.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 1st.

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; Jaime Cotnoir; 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; Susan White; Mary Schneckeburger, and David Winslow

Department Representatives: Kristin Capeless; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Bill Logan; Jennifer Patterson; Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick

Guests: Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Natalie Childs; Kate Ende; Kalie Hess; Diane Johanson; Tamika Jones; Becca Matusovich; Dan Morin; Sarah Osman; Kellie Rose; Malory Shaughnessy, and Angela Westhoff.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Vaccine Rollout Update with Lisa Letourneau**

- Lisa Letourneau presented an overview of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. She discussed the types of COVID vaccines being produced, their safety, and how they will be distributed to the community.
- Kathy will share the PowerPoint of the presentation with the MAC.

b) **DHHS Updates Related to COVID-19 with Michelle Probert**

- Michelle noted the Department is currently working on payment efforts for vaccine administration for pharmacies, home health, FQHCs and RHCs, home care providers, IHSs, and school health clinics. The Department will be following up with Lisa Letourneau regarding including dental providers in upcoming efforts.
- The Department has received a number of questions regarding the roster billing system, but is not currently set up to accommodate it.
- CMS has been stricter about who can receive vaccines paid for by Medicaid. CMS has directed we will not be allowed to provide vaccine coverage for MaineCare groups that have a limited benefit package that do not allow coverage for preventative services and emergency MaineCare.

- In the case of individuals who are not eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine under MaineCare, providers can go through the HRSA program for the uninsured.
- Michelle will follow up on a question that was posed regarding whether vaccine access might be available to children with special health needs and their parents. These children are often excluded from schools because of their risk. Their families are unlikely to be in a priority group, nor are they tied to a health system other than their usual care providers.
- Molly noted that the swab and send sites for testing have been extended through the end of March.

c) **Enrollment Overview with Esther Bullard**

- Esther noted that in October of 2019 OFI received a total of about 15,000 applications and recertification forms. In November of 2019 they received around 15,000. December 2019 closed to 16,000 apps and recerts. In October of 2020 about 17,000 apps and recerts came in. In November 2020 about 17,000 were received. In December 2020 roughly 20,000 apps and certs were received.
- OFI has seen an uptick in enrollment. In December of 2019 about 221,000 individuals were enrolled. In November of 2020 about 240,000 were enrolled for full coverage.
- Esther noted that the Wilton call center is now providing support to the Maine CDC for contact tracing work, which may impact call wait time.

d) **Rate System Evaluation Process Updates With Michelle Probert and Laura Cordes.**

- Myers and Stauffer will issue their initial findings for the rate setting evaluation system mid-January, and will issue a final report in late February. There will also be a very high level work plan and estimate of needs for different services. The prioritization list will be Myers and Stauffer's recommendations, but will not account for whether there is a budget available or if the MaineCare system is configured in a way that can support the changes required. The Department will review the recommendations, taking into consideration the reality of time constraints and resources available.
- Laura Cordes noted the Rate sub-committee met on 12/28 to discuss the stakeholder sessions and benchmarking report. She shared that the committee was concerned about the timing on the release of the report, as a week or two review time during the holiday season is not sufficient for providers to review all the information.

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

- The Rural Health Clinic rule and Estate Recovery rule have been adopted.
- Section 19 has been proposed.
- Policy is working through the SPA backlog, and moving forward on waivers as well.
- The question was posed as to whether it would be possible for Policy to share rules that the Department anticipates posting in advance of the actual posting.

f) **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Implementation**

- Molly updated the group on EVV. EVV went live for claims with dates of service starting 1/1/21. There is not a lot of data available to analyze yet, but more a more comprehensive recap will be presented at the February meeting.
- The Department is working on an e-message to clarify telehealth billing.

h) **Items From Guests**

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver