

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2020
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, July 7th, 2020.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Vickie McCarty; Laurie Belden; Laura Cordes; Jamie Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mike Hallundbaek; Candy Henderly; Jillian Jolicoeur; Marge Kilkelly; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Mary Schneckeburger; Judy Seals; Susan White.

Esther Bullard; ; Sarah Grant; Peter Kraut; Tom Leet; Bill Logan; Michelle Probert; Molly Slotznick; Leah Studholme

Guests: Jill Adams; Kathy Adams; Suzanne Farley; Becca Matusovich; Beth Pearce; Malory Shaughnessy

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) Rate System Evaluation Presentation by Myers & Stauffer

- Myers & Stauffer outlined their plan for the comprehensive rate assessment process. Their priorities are to develop a catalog of rates and to create a benchmarking report.
- The second phase of the assessment will get into specifics regarding the process for updating rates. A report of estimated costs, final recommendations, and key activities will be completed in the first two months of 2021.
- The MAC requested townhall meetings in order to facilitate targeted conversations regarding rates. Kathy suggest the combination of a survey and townhall or focus group type settings.

b) DHHS Updates related to COVID-19 by Michelle Probert & Esther Bullard

- A telehealth social media campaign and an informational mailing to members will increase awareness of the telehealth option.
- On the federal level, CMS has provided a relief fund for Medicaid providers. Providers can apply to receive funding via an online portal. CMS has not seen the volume of applications they anticipated. A listserv message has gone out from the Department with a link to the application.
- Dee asked if we are able to track pending applications, and if so what is pending. Esther noted that typically we have a very low number of pending applications. Decisions are being issued quickly, unless additional info is required.
- The question was posed as to whether DHHS is working with the Department of Unemployment to make information about applying for MaineCare programs available. Michelle noted there is coordination between DHHS and the Department of Labor through the CoverME campaign. Michelle will ask Megan Garrett Reed to share how we have coordinated with the Department of Labor and how we plan to do so in the future.
- Michelle noted there was a drop off in dental claims around mid-March after the COVID-19 crisis began but there has been a bit of a recovery since dental procedures have resumed. Claims are at about 1/3 of their previous level of services.

c) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet presentation by William Logan

- Estate Recovery rule to be proposed.
- Telehealth rule has been adopted.
- The latest iteration of the COVID-19 Emergency Rule has been finalized.

d) Discussion Around Per Member Per Month Payments with Michelle Probert

- The first payment for services provided in July will probably occur around mid-August.

- The question was posed regarding whether there is a limit to how often someone in one of the coverage categories can get tested when they have been exposed, but are without symptoms? Michelle responded that there are no specific restrictions on the frequency of testing but, just as all MaineCare services, testing must be medically necessary in order to be covered.
- National website that tracks testing locations <https://get-tested-covid19.org/>
- The MAC asked how long the wait is for the Swab and Send sites. Molly noted we don't have that information yet, but she will follow-up when the information is available.

e) Discussion Regarding Coverage of Electrolysis Under Transgender Services

- Some members in need of hair removal services are not able to access them due to a lack of providers. The only approved MaineCare provider for electrolysis, which is necessary prior to being able to access some gender transition services, is located in Presque Isle. The travel time required is unrealistic for some people. Michelle asked if there have been efforts to engage with other providers of the service, and whether there is something on the MaineCare side that is preventing providers from becoming contracted. Michelle noted the Department will look into it to see what actions are possible on the Department's part to move forward.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Rate setting evaluation.
- Send additional agenda item suggestions to Kathy.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver