

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 2, 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, March 2nd.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Jennifer Christian (for Malory Shaughnessy); Laura Cordes; Jamie Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Kalie Hess; Mike Hallundbaek; Jillian Jolicoeur; Marge Kilkelly; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Vickie McCarty; Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Mary Schneckenburger; Malory Shaughnessy; Judy Seals; Jeff Tiner; Susan White.

Dean Bugaj; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Peter Kraut; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; Molly Slotznick; Elissa Wynn.

Guests: Julie Brennan; Natalie Childs; Erin Colgan; Nate Hintze; Brooke Holton; Temika Jones; Polly Legere; Nick Potts ; Becca Matusovich; Pete Plummer; Christine Walker

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- There was a request at the last meeting for more information on Value Based Purchasing. As it was not possible to add a presentation to this month's agenda, Michelle will share the overview on VBP that she is planning to present to the Health & Human Services Committee at a future MAC meeting. Olivia Alford will also be on hand for the discussion.
- On the vaccine front, the Department will be going live with a code for the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine to enable reimbursement to those providers whom the Department has authorized to administer the vaccine.

- Sarah Grant updated the committee on a recent direct mailing campaign that was completed in early February. The campaign reached out to all MaineCare members 70 years of age and older to share resources on the vaccination process. The communication included a 2 page ‘What To Expect’ informational sheet. The information is now available on the OMS website, and has been translated to several languages. The next group of mailings will go out to the 60 year old age category few weeks.
- The MAC raised the question that if vaccinations are being prioritized based on age groups, how will people who don’t have a license, birth certificate, or other proof of age demonstrate their age outside of those factors.
 - Michelle will ask if IDs will be required. Once she gets confirmation, she’ll get back to the MAC with the answer.
- Atlee Riley noted that folks with disabilities who believed they would be prioritized for vaccination are contacting Disability Rights wondering if they may have to wait long periods of time to get vaccinated. Will there be ways to ensure reasonable accommodations can be made, or is vaccination priority really going to be age driven? If it is age driven, the concern is that will lead to significant inequities. At what level are these things being discussed, and where do these things stand?
 - Michelle noted she appreciates the concerns, and that the Department is very focused on vaccine equity. MaineCare is making certain to look at data, and are flagging areas of concern. MaineCare does not advise or determine the recommendation for vaccine priorities, but will pass along the feedback provided.
- Molly presented an EVV update. She noted that eighty-seven percent of providers are now successfully submitting electronic visit records. A handful of providers are still working through the 3rd party vendor process. The Department has recently sent reminders about client ID and places of service, as well as an announcement of a new functionality to except live-in caretakers and some Section 28 services. They're posted here: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/about-us/projects-initiatives/electronic-visit-verification>

b) **Rate System Evaluation: DHHS Overview With Peter Kraut and Rate Subcommittee Update With Laura Cordes**

- Peter Kraut presented an update on the rate System Evaluation project. Myers & Stauffer has held 22 provider sessions, 3 member sessions, and conducted a member survey. Their benchmark report created 31 comparison workbooks across 63 categories of service, comparing reimbursement rates from select

Medicaid comparison states, Medicare, and commercial payers. The benchmark report presents Myers & Stauffer's recommendations to the Department. The Department is reviewing the recommendations to decide which ones are appropriate to act on. In the next deliverable that we anticipate out next week, Myers & Stauffer will be releasing a more detailed implementation plan.

- Laura Cordes presented an update on the Rate Subcommittee. The committee has reviewed the Interim report, and would like to have time carved out for next month's MAC for another benchmarking report update. 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 looking at rate studies that are already queued up for the year, and request 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.

c) **Section 28 Presentation & Questions - Elissa Wynne (OCFS), Dean Bugaj (OMS), Jennifer Patterson (OMS)**

- Dean covered an overview of Section 28, discussing the standard services provided under the section and the distinctions between standard and specialized services.
- Elissa Wynne noted a comprehensive assessment was completed of Maine's CBH service in 2018, and a number of recommendations arose out of the assessment. A priority strategy was developed featuring three main issues: addressing shortages in the behavioral health workforce; revising the waitlist process, and exploring options to amend current service definitions for Section 28. Pete Plummer requested a link to the presentation.
 - Jillian Jolicoeur noted that she does not find it fair that KEPRO drops a child down on the waitlist when the parent refuses telehealth, even though the referral notes in person services only. A 5 year old can't do telehealth.
 - Christine Walker asked if it's still common that agencies are picking up children from KEPRO without staff in mind, then spending time looking for / hiring / training those staff with weeks or months going by without any supports for the 'matched' child.
 - Nate Hintze noted that a BHP without any training can severely damage a child. He is concerned that there is no expectation on certification. Pete Plummer noted the standard in the rule is that a

BHP has to complete the first training module before they can provide services, and the recruitment of BHPs across the state is very difficult.

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

- Jenny noted that Policy is looking at the Comprehensive Rate System Evaluation recommendations in preparation for any future rulemaking that may be required.
- Contact info for policy writers is included in the Rule Status Update. Jenny encouraged MAC members to reach out to the policy writers with input or inquiries.
 - A question was posed regarding whether it would be possible to clarify the intent of rounding, as referenced on page 9 of the Rule Status Update.

e.) **Interpreter Reimbursement**

- Jillian noted her organization is seeing an increase in the need to utilize interpreters. She is wondering how other providers are faring with the use of interpreters, as they charge more than what MaineCare pays. Could there be collaboration around a list of interpreters and the rates they charge? The topic will be brought back next month for further discussion.

f.) **Maintenance Cases**

- Jillian Jolicoeur noted she is seeing a great improvement on the turnaround time of maintenance cases.

g.) **Update on new Dental Subcommittee**

- The update will be shared by email in the interest of time.

h.) **Items From Guests.**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at noon.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver