

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 4, 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 10:05 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4th.

II. ROLL CALL

Gia Drew conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Leo Delicata; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Jillian Jolicoeur; Marge Kilkelly; Sarah Lewis; Vickie McCarty; Peter Rice filling in for Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Mary Schneckeburger; Jeff Tiner; and David Winslow

Department: Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; David Jorgenson; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick

Guests: Ellen Baker; Julie Brennan; Jen Christian; Jamie Cotnoir; Brooke Holton; Bethany Jarvis; Malory Shaughnessy; and Susan White

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) DHHS Updates

- Sarah Grant announced that the Department has completed direct outreach to members in the age 18 to 49 categories.
- In non-COVID related news, an info session will be held in May on the 1115 Substance Use Disorder waiver program to share high level plans.
 - Peter Rice noted that he has been told there is a Section 28 provider who is moving to offering Specialized Section 28 services only. After discussion with OCFS, Peter has not heard anything else regarding this and he would like more information. Jenny will take the question back.

b) Rate System Evaluation: DHHS Overview With Michelle Probert

- Molly shared a quick update from Michelle. The Department is planning to propose initiatives for the second part of the budget and anticipates that there will be further engagement and discussion in preparation for calendar year 2022.
- The rate sub-committee continues to meet monthly. The committee is looking forward to reviewing the implementation plan and requests a presentation regarding the plan.

c) Vaccine Distribution Data Update With David Jorgenson

David noted that some of the variation being seen in vaccination rates is tied to county of residence. Also, men are being vaccinated at lower rates than women across all age bands. Hispanic and Latino member data shows that they are being vaccinated at lower rates.

- David will share a pdf of his PowerPoint presentation with the MAC.

d.) Funding And Other Opportunities Through the American Rescue Plan Act

Hope Glassberg presented a brief overview of the 1.9 trillion dollar American Recovery Plan Act.

- Increases vaccine distribution and COVID 19 testing resources.
- Workforce provisions and expansions.
- Financial supports for families and small businesses.
- Expanded support for housing, childcare, food, and the education system.
- Emergency grants for rural health care.
- The Maine Community Health Centers received 40 million dollars.
- Hope will share her PowerPoint presentation along with a couple of summaries of the ARPA.

e.) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet Review With Jenny Patterson

- Jenny noted there was a suggestion at the last MAC meeting to add a section at the beginning of the packet to highlight rulemakings that have a current open comment period. The suggestion has been incorporated into the report.
- Section 19 has been adopted. The changes are mainly to align with the federal settings rule.
- We are actively involved with trying to move the School-based Services policy forward. We hope to convene a subcommittee soon.

f.) **MAC Summer Meetings Discussion**

- The MAC will meet in June and July, and decide whether to meet in August or recess for a month.

g.) **Late Assessments from Maximus – Jillian Jolicoeur**

- Jillian is wondering why assessments are delayed. She used to get authorization provisionally, but is being told that will no longer be the case. She would like to know if it is a member issue, or is Maximus behind?
 - Susan White noted she is experiencing the same issue. Sometimes assessments aren't being done for weeks, so there are delays between when the first authorization ends and the next begins. Maximus is saying they are no longer willing to do temporary authorizations, so that leaves providers having to decide whether they should cancel services. If the member isn't approved, the provider won't be reimbursed.

Molly asked Esther to reach out to her contacts for more information.

h.) **Wrap Up**

- The agenda for the next meeting will include a follow-up from OADS regarding the Maximus Assessment question.
 - The next MAC meeting will be held June 1st at 10:00 a.m.
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h.) **Items From Guests.**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver