

*MaineCare Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes*

November 3, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:13 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, November 3rd.

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; Jillian Jolicoeur; Marge Kilkelly; Jim Martin; Vickie McCarty Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Mary Schneckeburger; Judy Seals, and Susan White.

Department Representatives: Kristen Capeless; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Tom Leet ; Rachel McLean; Jennifer Patterson; Michelle Probert; and Liz Remillard; Molly Slotznick, and Lea Studholme.

Guests: Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Nate Hintze; Brooke Holton; Diane Johanson; Sarah Lewis; Becca Matusovich; Dan Morin; Kellie Rose; Malory Shaughnessy, and Angela Westhoff.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) **DHHS Updates Related to COVID-19 With Michelle Probert.**

- Michelle noted that, while Maine's COVID infection rate continues to trend better than the rest of the country, there has been a steady climb in the positivity rate and cases are increasing.
- Molly noted that 100,000 antigen testing kits are being distributed through a program being coordinated by the Commissioner's Office at DHHS.
- MaineCare is working on implementing a number of new testing codes including a code for antigen testing.
- A new portal is now online to allow providers to enroll for distribution of the COVID vaccine when it becomes available. The portal has been set up to preempt a rush when a vaccine is ready for distribution. The portal is totally separate from the MaineCare enrollment portal.
- Michelle noted the public health emergency has been extended through the third week in January.
- Michell noted there is another provider relief fund opportunity. The application deadline has been extended to November 6th.
- The maximum length of the K waiver period is one year. There is no opportunity to apply for another K waiver at this point. While it is possible CMS may discuss an extension there have been no updates at this time.

b) **Rate System Evaluation Process With Michelle Probert.**

- Sarah noted the Department and Myers and Stauffer are considering the last week of November or first week of December as possible dates for the second phase of stakeholder engagement. Specifics will be communicated in the next couple of weeks. Also, sessions for MaineCare members or their parents or guardians will most likely be held the week before Thanksgiving, prior to the Phase 2 discussions. Michelle noted the Department will be looking to consumer organizations that work with the MAC to help with outreach to members who may be interested in participating in the sessions.
- The Department anticipates the benchmarking report will be released on November 23rd.
- Laura Cordes asked if Michelle is able to share which states are being looked at for the benchmarking comparisons. Michelle noted they are still looking at whether the states are an appropriate mix, but the selected states currently stand at Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, North Carolina, and Montana.

c) **Rates Subcommittee Meeting Updates With Laura Cordes.**

- The sub-committee presented their ideas of how the stakeholder sharing process might be improved. The group felt the previous conversations were at a surface level and there was no sense of who was participating in the meetings. Not everyone received a participant list announcing the number of folks who were taking part. It was suggested that in future meetings folks who signed up be announced as a way for people to know who is participating.
- Sub-committee members expressed a concern that the Department may move forward with a VBP plan without getting feedback from providers.
- The committee requested a list of rate studies that are currently in process or planned for this fiscal year.

d) **Maine MOM Presentation With Liz Remillard.**

- Maine MOM is a 5-year initiative to implement maternal substance use services.
- The program is currently in the design and planning stage.
- The plan is to begin piloting Maine Mom in July of 2021.

Section 28 Work Group Update– Nate Hintze

- Nate shared concerns around accessing Section 28 services. There is a long waitlist before services can be accessed. Providers find it challenging to recruit staff. Most BHP's do not see their role as long term career. Many leave to become ed techs where they can get positions with benefits. There is a power dynamic between providers and parents. There are internal waitlists, and children can be held in limbo for months on end. Providers can drop children when ever they chose.
- Nate would like to see the ability for parents to locate qualified staff and then have the provider pick them up as staff.
- Does there need to be a distinction between Section 28 and Section 28 special?
- Providers should be assessed when clients are dropped.
- Jillian Jolicoeur noted she also has concerns. Pirating is an issue, with clients being stolen by other agencies.

- Michelle noted that the people who can respond to the concerns—Children’s Behavioral Health and the Office of Child and Family Services—are working to figure out how to solve the problems. She can invite the right folks to a future meeting to provide input on the plans and to move the conversation forward.

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

- Jenny encouraged members who have a question about a particular rule to reach out to Policy.
- Tom Leet presented an update regarding the Section 21 and Section 29 waiver renewal process. Approval has been received back to 7/1/2020 on Section 21. Section 29 was submitted at end of September. Rulemaking is required for many of the approved changes to be implemented and incorporated into policy.

f) **Check In On Active MAC Subgroups**

- The Rate System Evaluation sub-group is meeting regularly.
- The Member Access sub-group has not met since COVID.
- The Communications sub-group has not met since COVID.
- The MAC feels Dental would be a useful subcommittee.

h) **Portland Minimum Wage Referendum: Potential Impact on MaineCare Services**

- Should the referendum pass, a check-in will be slated for the December MAC meeting.

g) **EVV**

- Jillian noted there is a concern about implementing EVV amidst the COVID 19 situation. Providers are wondering if there is any sort of update regarding a possible delay in the start date for the EVV requirement.

h) **Miscellaneous**

- A request was made to add a Section 28 update from OCFS to the agenda for next meeting.

j) **Items From Guests**

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver