

*MaineCare Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes*

October 6, 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, October 6th.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Members: Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Vickie McCarty; Stephanie Chase; Laura Cordes; Jaime Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Mark Eves; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Mike Hallundbaek; Jilian Jolicoeur; Marge Kilkelly; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Mary Schneckenburger; Jeff Tiner; and Susan White.

Department Representatives: Esther Bullard; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Jennifer Patterson, Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick

Guests: Kathy Adams; Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Meredith Harrell; Kalie Hess; Diane Johanson; Steve McRae; Elissa Miller; Malory Shaughnessy; Angela Westhoff

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Rate System Evaluation Process Update**

- Michelle noted that the Stakeholder engagement process has begun. A second round of stakeholder engagement will commence once the results from the benchmarking study Myers and Stauffer is conducting are available.
- Laura Cordes asked about the draft final report that will be ready in December, and how that draft report will be made available. Michelle responded that a November rough draft will be available to Legislature in advance of a final report around February.
- Laura Cordes noted concerns raised by the rates subcommittee concerning the short notice and timing of stakeholder meetings. The subcommittee also recommended that the meetings be recorded.
- Jilin noted that, when planning next stakeholder session, it would be helpful if the questions were put out sooner. Providers would like to see the questions with more advance notice, so they aren't hurrying to provide feedback.
- A question was posed regarding the timeline of submitting comments. Michelle will follow up with the deadline.
- Kathy noted that for the member engagement piece it would be great if there could be an overview of what to expect in the meeting.

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

- The Federal government has officially extended the public health emergency to January 21st. The flexibilities we have been able to provide during the pandemic are linked to the PHE. From a budget perspective, the enhanced federal match we receive goes to the end of the quarter in which the PHE ends. Since the end is now potentially in January, we would still get the enhanced 70% match through to the end of March.
- The COVID-19 Standing Order for testing has been updated to further allow testing on a broader scale.
- Additional information has been sent out regarding child health incentive payments for services provided from September through December. They are in process currently.

c) **Medicaid Data Overview by Michelle Probert**

- Michelle noted that the Department is not seeing as much growth in the program related to unemployment as we would expect to see. Marge Kilkelly noted the perceived stigma around Medicaid could be preventing qualified individuals from applying for MaineCare.
- Inpatient hospital utilization, for the most part, is back to normal. Emergency room visits have leveled off, but not at the high level they were at pre-pandemic.
- Outpatient visits are not quite up to previous levels, but are on the uptick.
- Primary care visits are not back to expected levels. Decrease in kids visits.
- Dental visits have dropped, and are not back to where we want them to be.
- Pharmacy has not seen as much of a COVID-19 impact, just a slight downward trend.
- Nursing facilities have seen a slight decrease in occupancy.
- There was a request that Michelle share the slide presentation. Sarah will send it out to members after the meeting.

d) **Election results**

- **Via 16 unanimous votes, the MAC elected Kathy Kilrain del Rio as their Chair and Gia Drew as Vice Chair.**

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

- Laura asked if Policy could present on Section 21 and Section 29 and the waiver renewal process. She also asked about the Department's estimated timeline for those to be in effect.
- Jenny asked for the MAC's suggestions on how the rule Status Update could be made more useful for MAC members.
- Malory Shaughnessy noted the Department should utilize the MAC as a sounding board more frequently prior to moving into more formal rulemaking.

f) **Making Information About MaineCare Decisions On Eligibility And Services Public And Searchable– Atlee Reilly**

- Atlee noted there is a provision in the Medicaid fair hearings regulations that says decisions must be available to the public. Atlee noted that from an advocacy perspective that would be helpful, and it would also be a benefit to the MAC to be able to identify areas of dispute.
- Atlee would like the MAC to consider making a formal request that MaineCare make these decisions available.
- Leo noted he thinks the concept merits discussion. It might be useful in individual cases.

- Kathy suggested if there are folks interested in the issue please contact at Atlee Riley to figure out a formal presentation for the MAC for the Department to consider.
- It was requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting

g) **Voting 101 – Vickie McCarty**

- Disability Rights Maine offers a voting hotline for folks with disabilities.
- Sarah noted that the Department is now able to e-mail MaineCare members. Utilizing that communications option, option the Department is sending out a message letting members know how they can register to vote. That information is also posted on the member page of the MaineCare website.

h) **Miscellaneous**

- Mark Schneckenburger noted a concern regarding the limited availability of oral surgeons who accept MaineCare. It appears there are no oral surgeons accepting MaineCare at this time. Leo delicate suggested carrying this as an item on the agenda as a check in. He noted this is a problem that has existed for years that the legislature refuses to address because it is going to take dollars do so.
- Malory noted she would like to see some educational pieces around value-based care. Michelle noted we have a presentation that talks about our goals and she can invite Olivia Alford to present that overview.
- Angela Westhoff from the Maine Dental Association noted it has been 29 years since dental codes have had any kind of across the board increase. The Maine Dental Association is happy to have a conversation to brainstorm possible solutions.

j) **Items From Guests**

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at noon.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver