

*MaineCare Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes*

September 1, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 11:40
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, September 1st.

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; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Mike Hallundbaek; Candy Henderly; Marge Kilkelly; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Atlee Riley; Dee Sabattus; Mary Schneckenburger; Judy Seals; Susan White and David Winslow.

Department Representatives: Esther Bullard; Aaron Fotter, Sarah Grant; Peter Kraut; Bill Logan; Jennifer Patterson, Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick

Guests: Kathy Adams; Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Kirsten Capeless; Kalie Hess, Diane Johanson, Malory Shaughnessy

III. NEW BUSINESS

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

- Michelle provided an update on COVID-19 issues. She noted that the Department will be releasing more detail regarding claims payments in October.

b) **Rate System Evaluation Process Update Presented by Peter Kraut**

- Evaluation work began on July 1st and will conclude at the end of February.
- Phase 1 is due to be completed around the end of October.
- Phase 2 will build on information gathered during phase 1. Phase 2 will include development of a plan for a comprehensive service process. Work is expected to be completed by the end of February and will include stakeholder engagement.

c) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet Review Presented by Bill Logan**

- The comment period for the Rural Health rule has closed.
- The comment period for the Estate Recovery rule has closed.
- Section 65 has been adopted.

- Laura Cordes requested that the public comment deadline for waivers be added to the waiver section of the Rule Status Update.

d) **Revalidation Timeline Review Presented by Aaron Fotter**

- Aaron noted the first round of revalidation was completed several months ago. The process began in 2017, so for most provider types the second round of revalidation won't be occurring until January 2022. The exceptions are Home Health agencies, along with some other provider types, who are required to revalidate every three years. Those providers will begin the revalidation process again this fall. Communications will be going out to remind those provider types of the revalidation, and will include a revalidation guide, tip sheets, and a checklist to help with preparation. There are also pre-recorded training sessions. We will partner with our enrollment vendor DXC to provide 1:1 training sessions if providers request them.

e) **Children's Access to Dental Health Care**

- Fewer staff members at dental offices, coupled with the backlog of cases and COVID-19 restrictions, is leading to delays in treatment. There are fewer appointments available, and many dental offices are booking out to January. It's harder to provide services to kids. The concern is that there is a capacity issue, and the MAC would like to discuss a long-term strategy to address the issue.
- Michelle noted two new positions are being added to MaineCare, an EPSDT coordinator and a CHIP outreach position.

f) **Issues Related to Immigrant Access and the SAVE System – Kathy Kilrain del Rio**

- Because of challenges with the immigration system, acquiring access to MaineCare has become even more complicated. Another issue that has come up is that people who previously would have been eligible for full MaineCare once they applied for asylum are having a hard time with the process because of the changes to the parole system when they present themselves at the border. Kids who used to be able to get access to healthcare fairly quickly are now stuck in limbo for a very long time. The MAC would like to talk about possible work arounds to make the process easier.
- There have also been a recurring number of cases where people who have a status that would make them eligible for MaineCare are being asked for documentation they wouldn't normally be asked for. The appeal process is an option, but it takes a lot longer.
- Other people who are impacted are U.S. citizens who are children, but whose parents are without documentation. Many families are afraid to apply for benefits their children are legally entitled to because the parents are in fear of deportation. They don't want anything that pings them in any system so they won't apply for the eligible children. Are there workarounds that can make it possible for people who are eligible to get care without triggering fears of deportation for other family members?
- Esther Bullard asked that if MAC members encounter specific cases where it seems that wrong information is being asked of clients, please notify Lea Studholme and herself so they can address training issues with workers. Esther is also happy to be part of brainstorming efforts regarding how to connect people who are eligible to services.

g) **OFI Community Partners Meeting – Esther Bullard**

- Esther informed the MAC of OFI's Community Partners group. The group is looking for more participation, especially from non-MaineCare organizations. Meetings are held once a month on Thursdays at 11:00. If anyone is interested in participating, please e-mail Esther at Esther.Bullard@maine.gov

h) **MAC Membership and Annual Election of Chair**

- If anyone would like to run for Chair or Vice chair, let Kathy know before the next meeting.
- The question was posed whether MAC meetings can be recorded.
- The question was posed whether there are open MAC membership slots that need to be filled.

i) **Miscellaneous**

- Malory noted she would like to see some educational pieces around based care. Michael noted we have a presentation that talks about our goals and she can certainly invite Olivia Alford to present that overview
- Jim asked about telehealth services and whether the administration is going to advocate continuing some of the COVID emergency flexibilities after the crisis ends. Michelle noted that MaineCare has an adopted telehealth rule that will remain in effect once the public health emergency is over.

j) **Items From Guests**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver