

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)
September 28, 2007
9 a.m. – Noon

Present: Mark Walker, Amber Doyle, Gary Givens, Tracy Charles-Smith, Debbi Kiley, Megan LaCross, John Bringhurst, David Alexander, Karen Sidell, Bill Streur, Jerry Fuller and Kathy Craft

Absent: Todd Wortham and Marie Darlin

Agenda Approval:

Commissioner Jackson will be unable to join the MCAC due to a meeting scheduled with Governor Palin. Dave Alexander added a few new items to Old/New Business.

Tracy moved. Dave second. Passed unanimously.

May 2007 Summary:

Correction: page 9, MMIS section (NPI) National Provider Identifier
Insert Petersburg summary from Debbi Kiley:

1. helping a consumer on the plane navigate the Medicaid system
2. visiting Petersburg BH center
3. small hospital video teleconference

Bringhurst said that there is huge benefit to visiting communities. These site visit shows that the state cares enough to come and it enhances the relationship. Susan and Nancy thanked John for allowing them the time to highlight their programs and services. John will submit a brief summary to Kathy for inclusion in the May summary.

Summary - LaCross moved to approve with the above additions and corrections. Tracy seconded. Passed unanimously.

MCAC will draft a document regarding future in person community outreach. Once completed, Craft and Kiley will meet with Streur and Fuller to discuss the MCAC FY09 budget.

Health Care Strategy Council – meets monthly; public meetings; next meeting 10/15/07 from 1 – 5 p.m. Last meeting will be at the Public Health Summit the first week of December.

MCAC members discussed the FY09 Policy Recommendations. Members were happy with the document as it reflected the information and issues as described.

Medicaid Director Report – Jerry Fuller

Congress approved a bill that would require tamper-resistant prescription pads effective 10/1/07 but this may be extended 6 months. This will be determined in the next few days. No advanced notice was sent to practices/offices that prescribe. This is not required of managed care entities or if businesses fax the prescription. Is this a movement to move toward electronic health records. Alaska is trying to keep a positive working relationship with CMS (Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services). Gary will talk with Nancy Davis and Ron Miller about this and continue the conversation.

Kiley suggested that the state consider paying for the tamper-resistant prescription pads for the practitioners.

Streur stated that the Medical Association had told him that they would send out notification to all providers however many provider groups did not receive notification.

The MCAC would also like to see the department have a 1-800 number for providers that have comments, concerns or questions. Jerry stated that questions regarding the tamper resistant prescriptions should be submitted to David Campana and to cc: William (Bill) Streur. And if a reply is not received they should forward the email to Jerry Fuller.

There is ongoing federal debate around the reauthorization of SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program). In Alaska this is Denali KidCare. The President has said he will veto the SCHIP reauthorization. There should be no interruption for Denali KidCare after 10/1/07; other states may be impacted. Alaska should be good until April 2008; at that time the match will change.

The Lewin Group was contracted to develop a forecasting model for Alaska regarding the number of eligible Alaskans for Medicaid services. They forecasted out 20 years and came to the conclusion that Medicaid would quadruple over this time due to the increase in our senior population. Sen. Green then introduced SB61 and contracted with the Pacific Health Policy Group (PHPG). PHPG confirmed and supported the Lewin Group report. Sen. Hoffman proposed and funded further studies on the PHPG recommendations. PHPG report did not come back that the state should cut services or individuals eligible but gave other recommendations. One of which is to work with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to enhance their service delivery system. Long Term Care and Pioneer Homes is also being studied as how best to proceed with this care. Chronic Disease Management and pharmaceutical issues was also a focus in the PHGP report. The RFPs have not been drafted yet but Jon Sherwood and Renee Gayhart are lead for the department.

Behavioral health issues were also listed in the recommendations. The department is reviewing the possibility or concept of drafting a Medicaid waiver or state plan amendment; focused on substance abuse treatment. Kiley stated that if the department does this we need to ensure there are services in which to refer Alaskans. Currently there are large service gaps in our system of care and access to care is almost impossible. The

department is continuing to have discussions with providers to reopen residential substance abuse services. The department may need to provide status reports on their work during the next session.

Walker asked about the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) and the various possibilities it provided or required. Fuller stated that there was only one requirement; which was proof of citizenship. Otherwise states were not required to do anything.

Fuller described Medicaid waivers and the Alaska Medicaid State Plan for the new MCAC members. The State Plan allows Alaska to bill Medicaid for approved services under a federal match. A Medicaid waiver allows Alaska to waive some requirements of services across the state.

Fuller reviewed the new DHSS organizational chart which includes:

Commissioner Jackson

Jay Butler, Chief Medical Officer

Bill Hogan, Deputy Commissioner – Family and Community Services

Bill Streur, Deputy Commissioner – Health Care Policy & Medicare

Cheryl Howdysshell, Deputy Commissioner – Finance & Accountability

Sherry Hill, Assistant Commissioner – Public Affairs, Legislation & Regulations

Beverly Wooley – Public Health Director

MMIS – Streur stated that the Affiliate Computer Services (ACS) was given the contract and the first meeting will be held 10/8/07 and they will begin work toward the June 1, 2010 implementation/operating start date of the new system. First Health will continue until then and there will be one month overlap. CMS has been helpful in this process. Mark Walker asked about the history of this contract. First Health was unable to fulfill its contract between 2003 – 2006 so the contract went back out to bid and ACS was successful and awarded the contract. The current MMIS is over 20 years old and CMS said it was time to update Alaska's system.

Dave Alexander followed up with the question about whether the new prior authorizer will go to rural/remote areas to understand the system as it works there. MCAC members stressed the importance of the prior authorizer understanding the health care process. Many positive things have occurred because of the MCAC involvement.

Fuller also discussed the expectations of the MCAC and its ability to meet in person 3 or 4 times a year and the change in FY08 to only 1 in person meeting during FY08. Jackson wants to see what the Health Care Strategies Council will recommend in their report early next year. There may be additional expectations of the MCAC once the report is completed. Elaborate on the details and specific issues how has the MCAC recommendations has influenced or made changes to the department's policies. This is important to design the future role of MCAC.

Craft will send an email to the MCAC and fax to Marie regarding the need to receive feedback within the next week from members on key points the MCAC has had on the

impact the committee has made on the system. Tracy described different travel issues that should be included in this document. Bill Streur reported that First Health does get cited by the State if they do not follow protocol with regard to travel arrangements.

Fuller described the FASD waiver project that will impact 7 children initially. Jerry will ask Michelle Lyons-Brown to forward updated information on this project to Kathy who will then share it with the committee members.

Concerns from David Alexander:

1) Alexander questioned the authorization of “certified” but unlicensed people delivering babies. He suggests that this be monitored. He further clarified that a licensed RN who is a certified Midwife is perfectly suited to deliver babies.

2) Providence hospital is still increasing its “palliative care” program. “Palliative” means “affording relief, but not cure” per the medical dictionary. Basically long term medical and emotional “relief” for the child as well as various sorts of family support will be needed.

3) There is a national consortium to improve early identification of young children with developmental problems. It now includes 18 states (recently including Alaska) plus Puerto Rico and Washington DC. About 15-18% of children have such problems and 50% of them are now being identified prior to school age. This does require careful testing and that system is what is taking place. As we know, a high percentage of preschoolers are Medicaid eligible.

Further issues with #2 & #3 above: Both of these will require Psychology or Social Work support as well as periodic medical help. We therefore MUST develop that needed support to be under the Medicaid funding. With the required long term care that will be needed it would be a real advantage to all of these families to have their child with problems to qualify for Medicaid at less than 200% or even 300% of poverty level.

Public Comment

Opened at 11:30 a.m. None was given. Public comment closed at noon.

Walker stated his concern about the federal rewrite of the rehabilitation services regulations. Fuller and Hogan are in Baltimore discussing this issue with SAMHSA and CMS along with the rest of the states. All states will be responding to this regulation packet. A stand-alone bill might be needed that puts a moratorium on all CMS regulations until later in the next administration or when Congress provides more direction and guidance.

Qualis is still the case manager for the State of Alaska.

Alexander asked about how we can work the current teleconference agenda format to ensure that we continue to have presentations from experts in the field speak with MCAC members.

Kiley asked that members think about our upcoming FY10 Policy Recommendations and the priorities it should include. She also asked that Streur and Fuller give input on what they see as the priorities for FY10.

Kiley stated that the new adult dental bill has, for the most part, been quite successful. Health Care Services is collecting the data on this program

Agenda addition. Add confidentiality disclosures under the Welcome/Introductions section.

Next meetings:

November 2, 2007 9 a.m. – noon

February 1, 2008 9 a.m. – noon

May 2-3, 2008 1) Homer & Seldovia-Debbi;

2) Tok, Tanacross & Dot Lake (Northway/Tetlin) – Tracy

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.