

**ALASKA MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MCAC) MEETING**  
**Monday, September 12, 2022**  
**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

MINUTES September 12, 2022

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Members Present are Jeannie Monk (Chair) Tanya Adams, Matt Hirschfeld, Victoria Kildal, Jessica Oswald, Mary Middleton, Katrina Wilson, Renee Gayhart, Philip Hofstetter, Jessica Oswald, Dane Lenaker  
Guests present include various members of the public and Al Wall, Deputy Commissioner Department of Health.

**Jeannie Monk**

- Introduction of new member Jessica Oswald, Administrator at Providence St. Elias Specialty Hospital
- Approval of 2022 recommendations, a recommendation on telehealth, remote-patient monitoring, lack of complex post-acute care options, on behavioral health and on podiatry all forwarded to the Commissioner of Department of Health
- Discussion of MCAC membership and bylaws changes. Changes to the bylaws approved so that members are able to serve more than three terms. Amended the bylaws to replace any occurrence of Department of Health and Social Services with Department of Health. By laws amended to indicate that the committee will develop a vetting process for prospective members and to clarify things that could cause a member to be dismissed.
- Board approved changes to bylaws.
- Consideration of application for New Member Chad Johnson was tabled pending contact with his references.

**Shawnda O'Brien- Division of Public Assistance** Introduction of Shawnda O'Brien- Division of Public Assistance to discuss the process that the Department will take when it's time to do the Medicaid redeterminations at the end of the Public Health emergency

- Shawnda discusses the process that the Division of Public Assistance uses and how the end of the public health emergency will change that.
- The Chair expressed the desire on the part of the MCAC that redeterminations happen in a way that promotes coverage and retention of benefits for everybody that's eligible selling, and that we don't have a lot of

people fall off Medicaid because of administrative details like the wrong address or not getting paperwork. We want to avoid claim denials and rework for providers and recipients.

### **Julius Goslin**

- Discusses collaboration between Providers at the sub committee level and the importance of that collaboration and how it is moving the process of change forward.

### **Renee Gayhart**

- Discusses the impact of the split of the Department of Health and social services into two separate departments and the impact of the recent cyber-attack on operations.

### **Work group updates**

#### **Community Choices Advisory Council**

##### **Anthony Newman**

- Discusses the status of the advisory council and that it is essentially inactive at this point as they had been having difficulty finding people willing to participate. Requests that it remain as a subcommittee but suspend its planned meetings, for now, until we have a concrete need to amend our community first choice program,

#### **Dental**

##### **Dane Lenaker**

- Discusses working groups efforts to find strategies to avoid the burden that additional letters of medical necessity pose on providers in the dental field.

#### **Pediatric Specialty Group & Genetics Group**

##### **Matthew Hirschfeld**

- Discusses subcommittee and working groups successful efforts to foster memorandums of understanding between Providence, ANMC and SCF to meet the needs of pediatric subspecialty care and ensure that delivery of care can be accomplished in a smoother fashion. Jointly recruiting for endocrine, pediatric, doctors and nephrology.
- Genetics work continues to focus on ensuring Medicaid access and payment for new genetic testing. Education efforts for providers on documentation and working to figure out how to bring on the newer more expensive tests.
- Work on home oxygen support to keep patients at home who need high-flow nasal canula oxygen. Supplier issues are being resolved.
- Cranial facial work group is looking at access to surgical subspecialty for small number of children who need care.

- Proposes a new work group focused on eating disorders. This is one of the biggest needs for sending kids out of state for treatment. Group will look at how to improve care and which care can be provided in Alaska.
- DME request for pediatric thickener to help those who need this get access and Medicaid will reimburse.

**Jeannie Monk**

Asks for a motion to form a working group on eating disorders. A motion is offered and seconded. Passed by unanimous vote.

**Public Comment**

**Katie Jacques**

**Clinic director for outpatient therapy Services for South Central Foundation at ANMC.**

- Expresses concern that many processes are causing undue administrative hardship on her organization and would like a longer public comment period for new state regulations.

**Michael Baldwin**

**AK Mental Health Trust Authority**

- Expressed support for the eating disorders working group and asked when the 2022 recommendations would be available on the website.

**Paul Davis**

**Norton Sound regional Hospital**

- Discussed home cancer screening opportunities including Medicaid coverage for Cologard.

**MCAC Member updates**

**Jeannie Monk**

- Highlight that we are hearing challenges with the lack of Medicaid housing and transportation providers. This creates many obstacles to care.

**Victoria Kildal**

- Behavioral health providers are concerned with payment delays, denials, and reconciliation issues. 1115 waiver has not been as supportive to providers as everyone hoped. Need improvements in this area.

**Mary Middleton**

- Offers concerns that very delayed grant payments are having an adverse impact on her organization.

**Katrina Wilson**

- Long term care administrators are having supply chain issues and staffing issues that are adversely impacting the delivery of long term care in Alaska.

**Phil Hofstetter**

- Rural facilities having a tough time with COVID recovery, Big staffing issues, inflation, Medicaid claims being delayed. Funding is a struggle.

**Susan Wheeler**

- The House bill related to Pharmacy scope of practice passed legislature. state plan/regulations needed; it is almost at the point of being implemented. This will increase opportunities for the pharmacists to provide care and assist patients and be compensated for their services.

**Jessica Oswald**

- Capacity issues are impacting the entire system. No where to discharge patients, differing opportunities for procedural services. Last week we had up to sixty-five people just living at the hospital with no where to go. Need to remove or reduce the administrative burden the Medicaid program puts on providers.

4:55-5:00

**Jeannie Monk**

**Committee Chair**

- Our next meeting is on December 12, 2022, which is a Monday, 3:30 to 5:00. We will do a formal request to reappoint people whose seats have terminated, who are now eligible to be reappointed.
- Request the DOH provide an update on the recommendations we submitted and plans to implement the recommendations.
- Acknowledge Deputy Commissioner Al Wall has been on the call.

**Albert Wall**

**Deputy Commissioner Department of Health**

- I'm on here monitoring, is so that I can prep the Commissioner for his return, so he will join you at your next meeting.

5:00

**Jeannie Monk**

- Thanks for attending, we have great participation and really appreciate everyone being here today.
- Meeting adjourned