

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)
November 2, 2007
9 a.m. – Noon

Present: Mark Walker, Gary Givens, Tracy Charles-Smith, Debbi Kiley, John Bringhurst, David Alexander, Marie Darlin, Gary Bill Streur, Jerry Fuller and Kathy Craft

Absent: Todd Wortham, Amber Doyle, Karen Sidell and Megan LaCross

Guests: Commissioner Jackson, Jon Sherwood, and Keith Busch, CMS

Agenda Approval:

Gary moved and David seconded. Passed unanimously.

Debbi Kiley asked that her email address be changed to DKiley@alaskapain.net

September 2007 Summary:

David gave the following:

1. Page 2. First paragraph. Line 5. There should be a ? instead of . after records.
2. Page 3. Fourth paragraph. Line 3. It should read 2008 instead of 2010.

No Ethics Disclosures.

Craft announced that this would be her last meeting and that Sally Bowers, DHCS, would be the new MCAC staff. Sally will facilitate the upcoming meeting in February 2008.

MCAC members discussed the confidentiality forms and reiterated that they are not in attendance to discuss individual cases and that confidentiality forms were not needed.

MCAC members made the decision to hold the FY08 in person meeting in Homer.

Givens reported that the tamper resistant prescription pad requirement had been delayed 6 months. Concern was expressed about the lack of facilitation regarding education. Fuller and Streur stated that they would contact a few associations to ensure this education and training takes place. E-prescribing is taking place in a few of the “chain” stores.

Medicaid Director Report – Jerry Fuller

Legislative Session will begin in mid January and last only 90 days.

There federal debate continues around the reauthorization of SCHIP (State Children’s Health Insurance Program). In Alaska this is Denali KidCare which is now 175% of the Federal Poverty Level. 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.

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. Jerry Fuller stated that the department, through behavioral health, 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.

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.

Debbi Kiley asked Jerry Fuller about DSH (Disproportionate Share) funding for Medicaid services. Jerry Fuller explained that Alaska's cap is 16 million. The state only provides some match so Alaska does not maximize this federal funding. Approximately 4-5 million is allocated to API with some dollars going to Bartlett Hospital in Juneau and Fairbanks Memorial Hospital for DET beds (Designated Evaluation and Treatment beds). Jerry Fuller stated that fully funded DSH would allow more decisions to be made about the allocation of expenditures.

Commissioner Karleen Jackson (via teleconference)

Debbi Kiley expressed concern about the lack of detox beds in Anchorage. Commissioner Jackson stated that the Ernie Turner Center and Cook Inlet Tribal Council were going to add additional beds. The Commissioner suggested that Melissa Stone speak with the MCAC about Behavioral Health activities.

Health Advisory Council will be giving short and long term strategies that might be in new or existing legislation. The council has had an ambitious schedule and will hold public comment the first week in December. A long term strategy recommendation will be to make the council ongoing and not have it end in January 2008.

Currently, the department is developing its budget for FY09. OMB has not requested or targeted any reductions.

Michelle Lyons-Brown was unable to speak to the MCAC about the FASD waiver project. MCAC supports the project but is concerned that it is focused only on 14-21 year olds and that it will only impact 6-7 children in 2008

David Alexander discussed “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. Jerry Fuller stated that Shirley Pitz is the lead on the early childhood care development and if we had additional questions we might want to invite her to an upcoming meeting.

Public Comment

Opened at 9:30 a.m. None was given. Public comment closed at 10:00 a.m.

Qualis is still the case manager for the State of Alaska. The MCAC continues to request the institution of a 1-800 number for providers that have comments, concerns or questions about Medicaid.

The Department should design a support mechanism for families with complicated cases and assist them in navigating the system. What would this look like? Perhaps like the Worker’s Comp model – Nurse Social Worker is the Case Manager in a tiered system based on the individual/family need. RECOMMENDATION: Facilitate the gathering of seasoned providers to discuss a low cost resolution.

Jon Sherwood – Medicaid Reform SB61 Status – Pacific Health Group Policy (DHSS status letters will be forwarded to MCAC members.)

1. Pharmacy. Recommendations will be made available next year.
2. Personal Care Attendants. Senior and Disability Services took over responsibility for all assessments on 11/1/07.
3. Alternative reimbursement for developmental disability services. Preliminary report due to Commissioner’s Office in mid-November.
4. Disease Management. This will be contracted out.
5. Pioneer Home RFP revision to allow for CAMA and long term care planning process, service array and service definitions.
6. DD waitlist. Funds have been identified for a contractor to look at a possible waiver. 6 million dollars was added to the waitlist. 200 Alaskans are taken off the waitlist and provided services.

7. Rural Provider Participation. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation are working on a) strategic plan; b) specific care planning and definitions; and, c) long term care.
8. Reimbursement Methodology. Improve reimbursement and cost reporting.

Debbi Kiley stated that she has seen several successful outcomes of the dental program for Medicaid patients. Health Care Services is collecting the data on this program. Bill Steur stated that there are not many providers and that 40% of recipients are Alaska Native. Debbi Kiley stated that there continues to be obstacles for the dentists who participate in the Medicaid dental program, and offered to forward the names and contact information of providers who could give specific examples.

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.

Next meetings:

February 1, 2008	9 a.m. – noon
May 2-3, 2008	Homer

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.