

Alaska MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MCAC) MEETING
Monday, May 10, 2021
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES May 10, 2021

INTRODUCTIONS:

Tawnya Adams, Regional Operations Manager; Victoria Kildal, Behavioral Health Director Kodiak Area Native Association; Robert Rang, CEO/Administrator Providence – Seward Medical Care Center; Matthew Hirschfeld, MD/PhD, Director-Maternal Child Health, Provider Physician Alaska Native Medical Center/Licensed Physician; Philip Hofstetter, Au. D, CEO – Petersburg Medical Center, Hospital Administrator; Katrina Wilson, Nursing Facility Administrator Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation; Dane Lenaker, DMD, MPH, Dentist, SEARHC Medical Clinic; Jeanie Monk, Senior Vice President, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association; Mary Middleton, Executive Director Stone Soup Group; Susan Wheeler, Pharmacist, Provider/Licensed Pharmacist; and Renee Gayhart, Division Director, Health Care Services.

Special Guests:

John Lee, Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, Tony Newman, Deputy Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, and Sherri Hinsaw.

3:30 – 3:35pm

Introductions:

- Minutes from February 8, 2020, Approved.
- New Chair introduction discusses priority for the year:
 - Understanding of MCAC and appointed members.
 - Increase knowledge the Medicaid program.
 - Identify as MCAC member how to be a voice to the Medicaid program for the group's members represent.
 - How to have a MCAC workgroup process and timeline that aligns with the state's fiscal year so that recommendations can be moved forward effectively.
- Discussion of letter of interest – Sherri Hinshaw.
 - Clarification on desired geographic locations of MCAC members. Location is not important, but it is expected that appointed members get input from all providers throughout the state in the field they represent.
 - Motion to obtain references from applicant and vote through e-mail.

3:45 – 3:50pm

Alaska Medicaid Program – overview and educational resources:

- DHSS Medicaid Overview Presentation.
- Medicaid Basics Video.
- Medicaid 101 and Medicaid 201.

3:50 – 4:00pm

Update on MCAC Recommendations for 2021.

- Timeline for MCAC recommendations to be changed to align with States Fiscal Year. Proposed process and timeline:
 - May – Approve final recommendations based on workgroups and other efforts of the MCAC. Identify new or continuing workgroups/subcommittees for the upcoming year and topics members would like to explore. Submit
 - September – Review workgroups scope and plans. Identify any specific program activities, problems or policy changes the MCAC would like to offer recommendations.
 - December – Updates on workgroup progress and other focus areas and review legislative or regulatory priorities impacting Medicaid that are under consideration.
 - February – Review initial recommendations from workgroups/subcommittees and other MCAC focus areas. Initial discussion to identify MCAC recommendations.

4:00 – 4:15pm

Proposal to form inclusive Community Choices Advisory Council as a MCAC subcommittee. John Lee, Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.

- Federal Requirement for CFC Advisory Council.
 - 42 CFR – Subpart K – Home and Community Based Attendant Services and Supports State Plan Options (Community First Choice).
- 441.575 Development and Implementation Council.
 - Establish a Development and Implementation Council.
 - Consult and Collaborate with the Council when developing and implementing a state plan amendment to provide Community First Choice Services and support.
- Mary Middleton and Katrina Wilson volunteers to listen to subcommittee meetings of the Inclusive Community Choices (ICC).

MCAC planning for next Year (SFY22)

- Workgroup/subcommittee discussion
 - Chiropractic/wellness – Matthew will reach out for status report.
 - Dental – Dane stated the dental group will meet after public comment regarding changes in the Medicaid dental program.

4:15 – 4:40pm

MCAC Member Input

- Philip – Recommends the MCAC group should review how the COVID relief funds and stimulus package affects the healthcare in the state.
- Katrina – pressing issue is nursing home cost of care. Concern is that elders will have a large financial bill and loss of Medicaid.
- Victoria – paying attention to 1115 Medicaid Waiver. Issues with enrollments. Bottle neck of enrollments with providers (facility enrollments and individual provider enrollments).
- Tawnya – Only 2 DME's in Alaska and supplies are short forcing many people to seek outside of Alaska. This is a result from cuts on reimbursement and supplies resulting more suppliers pulling out of the state.
- Mary – Concern is on the waitlist on waivers and how many people are drawn each year. Concern is on COVID about health care services that kids were receiving at school and with everyone being at home that no one was receiving those services.
- Matt – Takes a lot of time for providers to get Medicaid approval for travel and consultations with specialists. It was smooth until the last year. A lot of letters of justification are now required to get approval for travel.
- Robert – Long-term care has a lot of challenges with authorizations and sometimes delays. Focus on initial ability from getting someone admitted out of the hospital and into a long-term facility.
- Jeannie – Following Medicaid budget to see if budget will be cut. COVID has reduced utilization, reduced travel resulting in savings. Program is looking at saving 100 million dollars in unspent funds. Unfortunately, the money will not carry over into the next year as it will be reallocated into the General Fund.

4:40 – 4:45pm

Medicaid Clinical, Enrollment, Financial Updates

- Renee – Telehealth has increased by almost 500 providers. In about a month about 15,000 recipients are receiving telehealth and since the pandemic we've spent about 71 million dollars in telehealth services. To date the state has spent 116 million on COVID related claims.

4:45 – 4:55pm

Public Comments

- No participants.

4:55 – 5:00pm

- Meeting adjourned.

Future meetings:

Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00pm