



Medical Care Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

Date: 6/2/2021

Time: 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Webinar

Meeting Summary

Documents Distributed:

- [Agenda](#)
- [MCAC PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Welcoming Remarks

Tom Wallace

Tom Wallace welcomed everyone to the meeting/webinar. He provided an overview of the virtual meeting logistics, advising that all attendee lines would be muted during the meeting. He also advised that questions submitted through the webinar question box would be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Agency Changes

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace reviewed staffing changes for the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency), stating that nine of the eleven Medicaid management positions have received new staff appointments within the last 10 months. Mr. Wallace notified the committee that he had been named as the Deputy Secretary for Medicaid, and then reviewed other key staff member changes throughout the Agency.

Legislative Updates

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace provided an update on the 2021 Legislative Session, advising that the Medicaid Budget has passed and is currently with Governor DeSantis for signature. Mr. Wallace reminded the committee that the Governor still has veto power for each line item. Mr. Wallace highlighted the new programs that were established with this year's budget, including the Hospital Directed Payment Program, Indirect Medical Education Program for institutions participating in a graduate medical education program, and a Florida Nursing Home Uniform Reporting System for financial reporting.

COVID-19 Updates

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace reviewed the Medicaid Enrollment information, showing the most recent twelve weeks. Medicaid enrollment has been tracked on a weekly basis since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total enrollment at the end of May 2021 was 4.79 million recipients, which shows a 3-month increase of over three percent. The largest enrollment population increase has been children and families (TANF) and the managed care population.

Telemedicine and Behavioral Health

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace reviewed the COVID Telemedicine Flexibilities, advising that the Agency reinforced awareness of existing telemedicine coverage and added additional flexibilities to address key areas affected by in-person limitations. Telemedicine has been allowed for additional services in the following areas: behavioral health, behavioral analysis, therapy services, early intervention services, and well-child



visits. Telehealth has also been expanded to include audio-only services when necessary and asynchronous modes, and payment parity is required for telemedicine for the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Plans.

Mr. Wallace then reviewed the telemedicine utilization over the course of the pandemic. Over the course of a twelve-month period, more than 9.5 million telemedicine visits occurred. The primary usage of the telemedicine services was for behavioral health services.

Mr. Wallace then reviewed the telemedicine expenditures over the course of the pandemic, and reminded the committee that, while the expenditures for telemedicine has increased, the amount will be offset by a decrease in in-office visit expenditures. Over the course of the pandemic, behavioral health services account for approximately seventy percent of all telemedicine expenditures, and fifty-six percent of all telemedicine visits.

Mr. Wallace then provided an update on the Behavioral Health and Supportive Housing Assistance Pilot program, which was implemented in December of 2019 in select counties. These services support a member in the preparation for and transition into housing and include services to ensure the participating members have assistance with transitional housing and sustaining tenancy, as well as support through mobile crisis management and self-help and peer support services. Mr. Wallace then reviewed the enrollment in this pilot program which reached a total of 460 members in quarter four of demonstration year (DY) 14 (April to June of 2020).

Health Plan Mergers and Acquisitions

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace reviewed the Health Plan mergers and acquisitions. Simply Healthcare acquired Lighthouse operating in regions 1 and 2, effective on February 1, 2021. Simply Healthcare also acquired Miami Children's Health Plan operating in regions 9 and 11, effective on May 1, 2021. Mr. Wallace then reviewed the current map of SMMC Plans by region.

Mr. Wallace reviewed the mergers and acquisitions which are anticipated to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Molina is scheduled to acquire Magellan, which will impact regions 4, 5, and 7. The tentative effective date is September 1, 2021. Sunshine will be merging with Staywell, which will affect all regions. The tentative effective date of this merger is October 1, 2021.

Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace then introduced the Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program by reviewing the history of the project beginning in 2003 with the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act and the requirements. In 2019 Governor DeSantis signed House Bill 19 into law creating the program, and the Agency began to collect information, and submitted the importation concept paper to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In 2020 the Agency released an Invitation to Negotiate, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published the final rule on the importation of prescription drugs. Under Governor DeSantis' direction, Florida became the first state to submit a Section 804 Importation Program (SIP) proposal to the FDA. Mr. Wallace reminded the committee that the program is still in development, and the project team is working to ensure that the program goals of quality, safety, and savings will be met.



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While the FDA is reviewing Florida's SIP proposal, the contracted importation vendor has completed construction of the prescription drug warehouse which was licensed on May 18, 2021. The Agency is anticipating completing executed agreements with sister agencies in July 2021. The program will be implemented in phases which will ensure safety and compliance with all FDA guidelines, and is anticipated to begin within 90 days following the FDA approval of the SIP.

Agency Highlights

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace then provided additional Agency highlights, including the addition of toll-free telephone counseling services for Fee-For-Service recipients, and Toll-free telephone counseling services for all FFS recipients and updates to the Change of Ownership (CHOW) process.

On March 15, Kepro Acquisitions, Inc. began operating the new 24/7 telephone helpline for qualified Fee-for-Service recipients, which provides a helpline and short-term counseling sessions. This service will assist in improving the quality of mental health care for eligible recipients and will provide supplemental behavioral health services in addition to those which recipients already receive.

The CHOW Project team concluded their work to improve the Change of Ownership process in March of 2021. The efforts of the team will assist in reducing the number of issues and complaints resulting from unreported CHOWs, and improve the provider experience. This process update includes new resources for CHOWs such as a CHOW resource page with details explanations of the requirements and reporting process, additional reference materials, web-based training, and interactive changes on the web portal. Resources for the CHOW process can be found online at the Florida Medicaid Web Portal [Ownership Changes webpage](#).

Subpopulation Committees

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace then stated the goal to reestablish the five subpopulation committees required by the Special Terms and Conditions of the 1115 waiver. These subcommittees were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Agency is working to reestablish these subcommittees. Individuals interested in participating in these subcommittees should contact Carla Sims at Carla.Sims@ahca.myflorida.com.

Adjourn

Tom Wallace

Mr. Wallace opened the floor for questions.

An attendee at the meeting asked if Medicaid would continue telehealth services after the end of the State of Emergency issued by the Governor's office. Mr. Wallace stated that some telehealth services were available to recipients prior to the Executive Order, and those will remain available and continue to be reimbursed after the end of the State of Emergency. The additional flexibilities regarding telehealth issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are in discussion, and more information will be made available in the future.

An attendee at the meeting asked if Medicaid is monitoring the quality of telehealth delivery. Mr. Wallace responded that there is a team within Medicaid who monitors quality and is aware that telehealth is one facet of the future delivery of healthcare to Medicaid recipients.



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Mr. Wallace reminded the attendees that all meeting materials and minutes will be made available on the Medical Care Advisory Committee website at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/mcac/meetings.shtml> in the near future. Mr. Wallace then thanked everyone for their participation and reminded them that meetings are scheduled quarterly. He advised that any additional questions or comments should be sent to the MCAC liaison Carla Sims at Carla.Sims@ahca.myflorida.com.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 A.M.