

Medical Assistance Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 12, 2013

State Staff Attending: Vivianne Chaumont, Catherine Gekas Steeby, Lori Harder

Members Attending – Mary Barry-Magsamen, Ed Erickson, Dr. Deb Esser, Lynette Helling, Ron Jensen, Terri Melvin, John Milligan, Jina Ragland, Ed Schneider, Ricky Ann Trobaugh, Dr. Dale Zaruba

Members Absent – Dr. Scott Applegate, Dr. Joe Acierno, Heath Boddy, David Burd, Joni Cover, Natalie Torrez

Members Absent (Unexcused) – Brad Rasmussen

I. Review of March 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes – approved as written.

II. Department Updates

A. **MCO Marketing Materials** – There were no concerns with the materials.

B. **ACA Implementation** – Ms. Chaumont introduced Catherine Gekas Steeby, who is the head of the eligibility policy section. Ms. Gekas Steeby distributed copies of a document detailing upcoming changes to eligibility for Nebraska Medicaid. She explained the new federally mandated single streamlined application for Medicaid can be used to apply for Medicaid or CHIP and other medical related insurance programs in the Marketplace (initially called the Exchange). Applicants can apply online, on paper, in person, via fax, or over the phone. Anyone on the exchange to get insurance subsidies needs to first be determined not eligible for Medicaid. Another federally mandated change is the use of MAGI (Modified Adjusted Gross Income) which will be taken from tax forms for specific eligibility groups. We have a new methodology to make those determinations since eligibility standards will change as we convert to MAGI. A lot of how we will determine eligibility is from an individual's tax filing information and the manner in which people file their taxes. We will be required to get information from the federal data hub, which will state what income is from last year. If federal hub income information is not reasonably compatible (within 10%) with attested income on the application, current income will be requested. We will be mandated under law to streamline the eligibility renewal process. We will go to the data sources first to see if a client is still eligible and if not, we will send a form so the client can give us current information. An individual's information will be shared with the Marketplace if they aren't eligible for Medicaid so that person does not need to resubmit all the information. We will still communicate and share information with the economic assistance program. Ms. Gekas Steeby

said we will add additional staff as we anticipate additional applicants. Ms. Chaumont said the Department of Insurance is in charge of the Marketplace.

- C. **Medicaid Operations Changes** – Ms. Chaumont introduced Lori Harder, who is in charge of Medicaid Field Operations. Currently Medicaid eligibility is determined by staff of the Division of Children & Family Services (CFS). Effective July 1, Medicaid eligibility determination will be done by staff of the Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care (MLTC). Nebraska has four call centers - Scottsbluff, Lexington, Lincoln, and Fremont. However, there are staff located in offices throughout the state for all services. The Lincoln and Lexington call centers will be transitioned to MLTC effective July 1. We will eventually have a separate phone line and a separate 800 number. We will continue to share information with CFS. MLTC staff have met with CFS staff often and we will continue to meet after the transition is complete so our separate needs are met. We are looking at expanding the office in Lincoln and having one in Omaha. We are also looking at expanding hours. We will evaluate to see how effective that strategy would be to meet client's needs and may add Saturday hours also. We will have assigned caseworkers for individuals with alternative living situations such as nursing homes, those on personal assistance or Medicaid Waiver services, individuals in PACE, emergency medical services for aliens, and those under 599 CHIP. At our August meeting, Ms. Harder will give us feedback on the transition. Please call at any time if you have concerns.
- D. **Rate Increase** – Ms. Chaumont said there is a 2.25% rate increase for Medicaid providers other than PCP codes effective July 1, 2013. The enhanced rate under the ACA will be paid on August 1, 2013 by the managed care companies and October 1, 2013 for fee for service. Both will be retroactive to January 1, 2013.

Ms. Chaumont announced we are about to release an RFP to develop a new Medicaid eligibility system.

- III. **Member Issues** – Ms. Barry Magsamen asked about IMD exclusion. Ms. Chaumont stated there was nothing new to report. Dr. Schneider asked about the status of EHR incentives for optometrists. We will follow up.
- IV. **Other Issues** – The next meeting is Wednesday, August 14, 2013, at 5:30pm in Classroom 1 at the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership, 4600 Valley Road, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- V. **Adjournment** – adjourned at 6:35pm