

Medical Assistance Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, June 8, 2011

State Staff Attending: Vivianne Chaumont, Sarah Briggs, Kay Wenzl

Members Attending – Dr. Joe Acierno, Dr. Scott Applegate, Heath Boddy, David Burd, Joni Cover, Ed Erickson, Dr. Deb Esser, Tami Frank, Lynette Helling, Ron Jensen, Terri Melvin, Brad Rasmussen, Dr. Ed Schneider, Natalie Torrez, Dr. Dale Zaruba

- I. **Review of May 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes** – approved as written.
- II. **Department Issues**
  - A. **MCO Marketing Materials** – No concerns, comments or questions on the marketing materials. Open enrollment begins July 1.
  - B. **Transportation Broker Update** – Ms. Wenzl reminded members the broker was implemented May 1 for persons needing assistance with non-emergency transportation. American Medical Response/Access2Care (AMR/A2C) is coordinating all transportation for eligible clients. They have one number to call with the preference of receiving the request at least three days in advance of the trip whenever possible. Trips can be scheduled 30 days in advance. The system for emergency transportation is also still in place. The broker is responsible for provider enrollment and approval. AMR/A2C averages 650 calls daily and schedules around 300 trips per day. Ms. Torrez asked if individuals taking tribal members to appointments can become providers. Ms. Wenzl said Courtney Miller has already asked AMR to contact the tribes regarding provider enrollment. In response to Ms. Melvin's question about saving dollars, money will be saved because the correct form of transportation is being utilized. Dr. Applegate asked about bringing a baby with the person needing the transportation. Ms. Wenzl said the intent is to provide transportation for the person on Medicaid who needs a ride. She can bring the baby but it's not the responsibility of Medicaid to pay for extra passengers. Medicaid does not reimburse mileage.
  - C. **HCBS Waiver Update** – Ms. Wenzl said the goal of the Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver is to enable people to stay in their home rather than an institution. MLTC administers the AABD (Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) waivers. HCBS waivers must be cost neutral in the aggregate. States may also choose to determine cost neutrality on an individual level. Nebraska currently does cost neutrality in the aggregate. Question is whether we should also do cost neutrality on an individual

basis. Dr Applegate asked if the change would save money. That determination would require additional steps to determine. The change could affect some clients. Dr. Zaruba believes the change is reasonable. We would determine what the average cost of the nursing home would be and compare to what each individual cost would be for nursing home care. Re-evaluation would occur at least annually or sooner if needs significantly change. Another question is whether family should be allowed to be providers. We do not pay spousal providers for spouse or parental providers for a child who is not an adult. We will gather more data on the relative as provider issue and the cost neutrality issue. Members stated the individual cost neutrality was a good idea.

- III. **Member Issues** – Ms. Chaumont said Home Health will be on the agenda in August. Mr. Boddy asked about DME for long term care providers. She said we were notified by CMS that we are paying DME incorrectly and need to submit a corrective action to CMS. We need to reimburse the nursing facility for their cost and they pay the DME provider.

We will send an RFP, asking for two vendors, for statewide managed care to include all except the two pilot Medical Home projects, meaning just those in the Medical Home pilot will have an additional choice. We hope to have the vendors by January 1. Statewide managed care will roll out July 1, 2012.

- IV. **Other Issues** – Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at 5:30pm in Classroom 1 at the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership, 4600 Valley Road, Lincoln, Nebraska.

- V. **Adjournment** – adjourned at 7:00pm.