



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

OASAC Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee Meeting

September 7, 2021

1:00- 2:30 p.m.

(Approved on December 14, 2021)

Call in option: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access Code: 177 254 0239 #; then press # again

Video System option: Please see Outlook invite to join by video

Members in Attendance:

Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director, Department on Aging (Chair)
Pam Winsel for Kelly Cunningham, Department of Healthcare & Family Services
Darby Anderson, Addus HomeCare, Inc.
Lori Hendren, AARP
Meg Lewis (for Ann Irving), AFSCME Council 31
Marsha Johnson, Community Care Systems, Inc.
Dave Lowitzki, Lowitzki Consulting
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association

Department on Aging staff:

Rhonda Armstead, Mike Berkes, John Eckert, Kimberly Flesch, Sophia Gonzalez, Amy Lulich, Katherine Ostrowski, and Iris Schweier

Guests:

Meghan Carter, Robin Morgan (HFS), Lauren Tomko (HFS)

Members Unable to Attend:

Paula Basta, Director, Illinois Department on Aging
Marla Fronczak, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Anna Moeller, State Representative
Terri Bryant, State Representative
Dave Syverson, State Senator

Welcome & Introductions

John Eckert welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a motion to start the meeting. Marsha Johnson made the motion and David Olsen seconded; all were in favor. Sophia Gonzalez shared the names of all attendees.

Welcome New Subcommittee Member

John Eckert shared that State Representative Jacki Hass joined the committee, but she is not currently on the call. He also shared that the Department has a new Public

Information Officer. Iris Schweier introduced herself and shared that she is still learning about Aging and is excited to be here, having been at the Department as of last month.

Approval of June 8, 2021 Subcommittee meeting Minutes

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the January 26, 2021 meeting minutes. David Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes. Marsha Johnson seconded. No corrections or changes were noted. All members voted in favor. The approved minutes will be posted on the IDoA website.

2021 Advisory Group Member Ethics and Harassment/Discrimination Prevention Training

Sophia Gonzalez reminded everyone that the 2021 trainings are due before October 31st. A reminder email was sent last week to members that have not submitted verification of these trainings. Any questions please email Sophia.

Review Quarterly Report Data & Trends

Kimberly Flesch shared that the numbers are fairly consistent from the last meeting. She shared that the numbers from the previous meeting continue to be shared just to get a good comparison of what we look like in each group. She noted that we are still showing improvement from a year ago. The quarterly report trend shows that we did drop slightly in our Medicaid percentage, but it was only from 74.5 % to 74.2 %. Flesch shared that the biggest thing she could tell when looking at the State is that those that had some decreases the last quarter continued to stay the same for the most part. PSA 08 did continue to drop a bit and we are still trying to figure out why those have a decrease in their Medicaid percentage. Flesch asked if anyone has any questions about these numbers. Flesch reminded everyone that our program serves a population that will never qualify for Medicaid and that at some point we will reach a percent that we just will not go over, and we think these percentages may be getting close to that. However, we do think that when the PHE period ends and we start unwinding from that, these percentages may go down just a little bit. John Eckert shared that he thinks that some of these numbers are going to be paired off when we start unwinding regardless of Medicaid or CCP eligibility. Flesch agreed that it will have some impact, on the Medicaid and on the CCP side and added that it is hard to say exactly how that will affect our percentages.

Lora McCurdy asked Marcia Johnson for her thoughts. Marsha Johnson shared that she had a conversation with a couple of her offices today and they are seeing an increase in assets, in terms of having more money in the bank. She added that it is normal because they received COVID incentive payment funds. They are just saving this money and in looking this year and last year we are seeing about \$3,000 to \$4,000 dollars more than what we did before; this will play a role in the being eligible and whether they maintain their eligibility on Medicaid. Johnson stated that she thinks that their numbers will go down in terms of the total participants once they are able to really get into more face-to-face determinations and REDEs. McCurdy thanked Johnson and commented that she has not thought about the assets and the points that were made about assets, but that would make sense. Johnson commented that they have had discussions with participants about whether they have a prepaid burial and things like that. They have been asked if they need any home improvements water heater or furnace or anything. She also shared that the participants are getting assistance if they feel that they have a need and they are not looking at their assets to see if they can help assist.

Darby Anderson shared that he thinks it is still worth pursuing some of the areas that have lower Medicaid enrollment and address that, it is work in progress. Flesch shared the other report that was shared shows the number of Medicaid reports that were uploaded by PSA. She shared that she found it interesting that those that had a lower trend of the Medicaid percentage matched up to these that had lower number of Medicaid reports uploaded. The Department working with OCCS Monitoring to have the report uploader and Medicaid applications be added to the conversations that the Department liaisons have with the CCUs. This will become a regular part of the conversations, for the CCUs to know what the status of the reports being uploaded looks like, for them to know that we are monitoring and to get their feedback on any issues they may be having (technical issues or problems with offices). Flesch shared that we hope that we will have some more information as we try to figure out what might be going on in those areas. Johnson shared that she followed up with her office to try to find out a cause and found out that for their initials, a lot of people are already on Medicaid and are managed care, so they are not uploading anything for those new people. Also, some of the other ones they saw were home delivered meals and were not looking at the Community Care Program, they were only looking for meals and probably private pay. Flesch shared with Marcia that for the calls that the Department is planning on having, they have compared the number of uploads to the number of initials and people actually starting or coming. Those people who had assets under \$4,000 and were not on Medicaid prior to that or up to the assessment. The Department is trying to only look at the ones that you would be doing the application assistance on. Johnson thanked Flesch and stated that she is excited to hear that.

Public Health Extension and Appendix K

Mike Berkes shared that the PHE period was originally set in March 2020, it was last extended for an additional 90 days on July 20th and it is currently set to end on October 19th, 2021. He added that there is a strong likelihood that the Biden administration will extend this date to the end of the calendar year. The Department submitted an Appendix K amendment, Elderly Waiver flexibilities, for 6 months after the PHE period ends. The Department is having discussion on unwinding regardless of when the PHE period ends. He thanked Pam Wenzel and her team at HFS for their collaboration with submitting the Appendix K amendment. He shared that because of the Appendix K, we continue to do hybrid work (i.e., remote and FTF). All state calls with CMS have been about unwinding, setting out and identifying everybody that should be on. For the Community Care Program, our Elderly Waiver program, we will have to complete redeterminations before we move on any federal guidance piece and make any programming decisions. The Department will be talking to CCUs next week. Lora McCurdy encouraged everyone to read the federal guidance on assessments and redeterminations.

FMAP Incentive

Mike Berkes shared that the FMAP Incentive dollars that are coming to the states operating the Medicaid waivers, an additional 10% in federal match will be returned to the State for the services we provide. For Aging it is \$98 million dollars and you can look at the HFS website to see the spending plan. The Department put together 10 spending areas that we think, link back to the feedback received from the network. Some of these areas address short-term and long-term needs and for some needs sustainability needs to be addressed. Those areas include the following; Care Coordination retention grants, assistive technology/devices, community re-Integration, rate increase for the CCUs,

expand/enhance current EHRS service with a GPS component and fall detection, environmental modifications, Adult Day Services outing offset payments, ADS Alzheimer's enhancement rate, intensive home services and accelerating the rate increase that was set for 2022. This money is to be spent by 2023/2024. Lora McCurdy added that we must try to look at data more. The IL Care Connections program was very successful, she asked Amy Lulich if the Department had shared that report with the group and if not, we can share. The assistive devices that were provided to seniors and person with disabilities through a federal grant that we received. We received all kinds of emails; pictures and the UCLA loneliness scale was used with participants to measure if the devices did address the social isolation and all were positive. McCurdy clarified that the Department did not just pick these spending areas, we looked at lessons learned. The Flexible Senior Services demo we offered some time ago included the home modifications that we are trying to incorporate what we learned. Berkes added that Aging tried to put together a strong spending plan in a short notice based on all the feedback and what we have already learned. Amy added that the Department also tried to align the spending plan with the 3-year State Plan and further those goals where we could.

Public Comment, Other Issues & Announcements

None.

Adjournment:

David Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marsha Johnson seconded. All members voted favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.