



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department on Aging

## OASAC Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee Meeting

**February 7, 2023 (Approved on May 23, 2023)**  
**1:00- 2:30 p.m.**

Call in option: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access Code: 2468 588 4991#; then press # again

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

### **Members in Attendance:**

Paula A. Basta, Director, Illinois Department on Aging  
Becky Dragoo, Deputy Director, Department on Aging (Chair)  
Kelly Cunningham, Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
Jack Lockhart for State Senator Ann Gillaspie  
Marla Fronczak, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging  
Marsha Johnson, Community Care Systems, Inc.  
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter  
Jacob Meeks for Ann Irving, AFSCME Council 31

### **Department on Aging staff:**

Mike Berkes, Sarah Carlson, John Eckert, Kimberly Flesch, Sophia Gonzalez, Jennifer Hebel, and Iris Schweier

### **Guests:**

Robin Morgan (HFS)

### **Members Unable to Attend:**

Darby Anderson, Addus HomeCare, Inc.  
Lori Hendren, AARP  
Dave Lowitzki, Lowitzki Consulting  
Anna Moeller, State Representative  
Terri Bryant, State Senator  
Jackie Hass, State Representative

### **Welcome, Introductions & Call to Order**

John Eckert welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sophia Gonzalez shared the names of all attendees. Director Basta thanked everyone for joining the call and welcomed Becky Dragoo, our new Deputy Director. It was noted that Becky is not new to the Department; she was with the Department back in 2020 and left to work at IDPH. She is back and we are grateful and excited to have her back with her knowledge, expertise, and commitment to older adults. Deputy Director Dragoo stated she appreciates the warm welcome and stated that it is nice to see familiar faces and new individuals on the Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Committee. She is happy to be part of the team at Aging and moving forward with incredible initiatives.

Eckert asked for a motion to call meeting to order, David Olsen made a motion and Marsha Johnson seconded. All members voted in favor.

#### Approval of December 6, 2022, Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the December 6, 2022, meeting minutes. David Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction. He did not attend the December meeting and added that it might have been David Lowitzki who made the motion to approve the minutes. Marsha Johnson seconded. All members voted in favor. The minutes were approved with the one correction noted and will be posted on the IDoA website.

#### Review Quarterly Report Data & Trends

Kimberly Flesch noted she does not have a lot of an update this quarter but did want everyone to look at the number of individuals from this report and the last report. Flesch stated that you will notice that there is a decrease in the MCO numbers. We usually do not see that much of a decrease, but sometimes there is a slight decrease due to the transfers. She explained that this decrease is specific to an issue in the system that had some people enrolled that should have not been enrolled. They were just enrolled at the end of December, and it only affected just under 700 of our aging individuals (ACA specific ages 60-64). The decrease is about 800, but only 700 are specific to that group. Flesch shared that in 3 years we have increased our caseload (131,000 compared to 111,000), that is 20,000 individuals in 3 years. If you look at Medicaid percentages, there was a slight increase, from 76.5% to 76.8% and some of that is due to us pushing Area 08. They had not been completing those Medicaid reassessments, redeterminations, and enrolling people into Medicaid. We can see where they were decreasing previously in the last couple of reports, and it looks like they are now staying about the same. This is an increase as they are getting people onto Medicaid, but it takes a while for that percentage number to move. Flesch also pointed out that you can see the Medicaid percentage increase over time. In addition, the percentage of reports that are uploaded in Area 8 are improving, you can see that over the last couple of months. Overall, we are still making good strides on our Medicaid percentages. Flesch asked if there were any questions on any of the reports shared.

David Olsen shared that the overall chart shows some significant progress, and he appreciates everyone's work on this. He added that as we are getting near to the end of this work per the statute sunset and appreciates everyone's attention to this over the past few years. John Eckert shared that the Department plans on continuing to have Kim Flesch prepare these updates to share to be shared with stakeholders so that we can continue to try to track progress. Eckert asked when the \$200 rate was put in effect for individuals entering the report and completing the Medicaid application. Flesch shared that it was before the pandemic and confirmed it was in July 2018. Marsha Johnson asked Flesch about the blank on one of the reports for January 2023 for Area 4. Flesch responded that those blanks are because they did not have any initials that met the requirement that we would expect the Medicaid application to be submitted. Eckert pointed out a couple of observations, on the Quarterly Enrollment report it is interesting to note that for all categories of Medicaid, non - Medicaid, and MCOs the numbers have increased in all categories. He shared he and a couple of individuals that have been around for a while were talking about the time when there were 50,000 people enrolled in the Persons who are Elderly waiver. There has been a lot of change in growth in these few years. Johnson shared that there has been a high increase on initials, more than

she remembers ever seeing, increasing every month. Kelly Cunningham asked if the numbers and percentages that have increased are for individuals are actually enrolled in Medicaid and not just applications accepted. Flesch confirmed that they are actual individuals that have been enrolled in Medicaid.

Kimberly Flesch asked Marsha Johnson if she knows where these referrals for initials are coming from, if they are from a specific entity or group of people. Johnson shared that they are from different places. They are not just self-referrals; some are from home health sent after a hospital stay. She shared that she used to see 10-12 new cases every few weeks and now they are seeing 15-20 every week in small areas like Shelbyville and Bloomington. In CCSI's Chicago subareas they are getting 20-25 a day and they are trying to figure out where they are coming from. Eckert asked Johnson if they have been able to keep their staffing levels back up to where they need to be. Johnson shared that she is in a good place right now with staff and she doesn't like to talk about that. Eckert shared that he was on a call with Premier and they reported that their staffing levels are getting back where they want them to be.

#### Public Health Emergency Unwinding

Mike Berkes shared that he will be providing a high-level update on the PHE guidelines and unwinding. He noted that March 31<sup>st</sup> is the end of the continuous medical enrollment period, the 12-month phase will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The PHE that we have been tracking for almost 3 years will be sunseting on May 11, 2023. He added that once the PHE ends our flexibilities under Appendix K will expire within 6 months. This means that we are looking at a November 11, 2023 to sunset Appendix K flexibilities. The Department will be doing strong messaging on this to the network. We know that we will have to do about 130,000 redeterminations and DOEs to confirm Determination of Needs scores are 29 or higher. The Department and HFS continue to attend all state calls and have a lot of good information. The HFS team has some tool kits out there with messaging on redeterminations and making sure that everyone has current addresses on file with DHS.

Kelly Cunningham shared that that they have had two recent meetings; one with Medicaid Advisory Committee last Friday and prior to that a special meeting with their Education Subcommittee and they have laid out their plan for PHE unwinding the continuous coverage enrollment provisions. She noted that slide deck is posted on the HFS website. Between these two meetings, the White House announced the end of the PHE and they had to pivot to cover both areas of unwinding. She believes they are similar in a lot of ways but have a very different focus from a workload perspective. HFS are still focusing the communication perspective. All the Aging advocates and providers can be helpful in making sure that they have updated addresses for all Medicaid enrolled individuals for when it is time for that redetermination paperwork to go out. This paperwork will start going out mid-April and they want to make sure that individuals have every opportunity receive this mail, complete it and return it. Cunningham shared that they picked up close to a 1 million members on the Medicaid program over the course of the pandemic and they there were about 2.9 million Pre pandemic; their latest numbers are about 3.9 million. These are a lot of people that have never had a determination, these redeterminations will be spread out as it is a dramatic increase for their staff. Also, many of the staff have never completed redeterminations before because they were hired during the pandemic. The first date that anyone may lose coverage would be July 1<sup>st</sup> and these individuals will be able to appeal. They are also looking to ensure that people know that there are other alternatives for them if their circumstances changed

during the PHE. Cunningham can share the public materials with this group or send them to John. She added that this is the first of many conversations that will continue to occur. Director Basta agreed and shared that IDoA is grateful for the partnership, and know it is a heavy lift and there is a lot to do, but we are going to do it. IDoA is here to help any way we can. Jason Meeks stated that he appreciated that overview, especially the broad picture of how many people were added during the PHE and the plan to roll out redeterminations. He also asked for the public documents to be shared in addition to what is available online. Cunningham will share via email to John, and they will be circulated to the group.

#### Public Comment, Other Issues & Announcements

John Eckert reminded the group that this subcommittee will be sunseting after the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, as the intent of the subcommittee has been met.

#### Adjournment

Marsha Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Olsen seconded. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.