



MCAC Meeting Notes  
March 4, 2015

**MCAC Members Present:** Catherine Cummings, Renee Rulin, Chris Gadbois, Dave Feeney, Roanne Osborne-Gaskin (for NHPRI), Gina Rocha (for HARI)

**Interested Parties Present:** Anne Neuville, Terry Lee

**Staff Present:** Deidre Gifford, Jerry Fingerut, Diana Beaton, Bill McQuade

---

**Meeting Convened:** 7:00 AM

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – D. Gifford welcomed members. She gave an overview of an initiative of the Governor’s Office, Reinventing Medicaid, a public process to gather input from stakeholders on the RI Medicaid Program. A Working Group has been appointed. There will be a series of public meetings that include public and stakeholder input. The Working Group will develop solutions for the near-term to inform the SFY 2016 budget and for the long-term. She asked committee members to also consider participating by either writing comments via the website <http://reinventingmedicaid.ri.gov/> or by contacting us (Deidre G. or Jerry F.) directly.
2. **Medicaid Fee for Services Policies** – Revised Medicaid FFS policies were distributed prior to the meeting for review. They included: Automatic External Defibrillator, Hearing Aids, Hospital Beds, Infusion Pumps, Speech Generating Devices/Electronic Speech Aids, and High Frequency Chest Wall Oscillation Device. The updated policies were reviewed to replace current language. There were no comments from the committee.

Some upcoming issues/policies were discussed. We participate in MED, a project based in Oregon that assists Medicaid Programs nationwide utilize evidence-based medicine to craft or review policies. If there are barriers to individual Medicaid members not getting care (either in a health plan or Fee for Service delivery system) please let us know. If you put the information in a letter to us, that is helpful.

3. **Development of Pain Management Centers-** The Department of Health issued revised Rules and Regulations for Pain Management, Opioid Use and the Registration of Distributors of Controlled Substances in Rhode Island (March 2015). The Medicaid program would like to develop a method to identify practices in the state that meet DoH regulatory standards so that patients can be referred to appropriate services. There is recognition that primary care doctors can treat

many patients suffering from various pain symptoms but need more resources to refer patients who do not respond to standard treatments. We will host a subgroup of the MCAC to follow up on developing a list of pain management referral sites. It will be to delineate the procedural steps (for referrals) for different types of treatment (i.e., pain management vs. substance abuse).

There was also discussion about the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) since use of it was defined in the DOH's rules and regulations. Only 18-20% of physicians currently use the PMP. It was brought up again that the PMP website was not easy to use. There is a recognition that we need to update the site. Send your comments to the Reinvent Medicaid website.

4. **Update on Hepatitis C-** The policy on Hepatitis C was revised in January 2015. By February 23, 2015, there were 46 requests for prior authorization for treatment. We will give you a more complete picture at the next meeting regarding the number denied verses starting treatment. This policy is driven by clinical and cost factors. There are national groups looking at these drugs since it is affecting all states. We will continue to keep you updated on this.
5. **MCAC Charter-** We have a new dentist that will be joining our group. We also want to change the charter language from "internist" to "primary care or family practice." We are required by federal regulations to include Medicaid beneficiaries as MCAC members. If the health plans or others on the committee could recommend members to Jerry F., we could get back to interested individuals to follow up on participating at meetings.
6. **Other Business/Discussion-** Dave Feeney presented on some health care reform initiatives that are showing promising outcomes at Coastal, University Medicine, and a few other places. We will allocate some time at the next meeting to hear about these. Deidre mentioned that we would be interested in funding mechanisms for these.

\*\*If MCAC members have any other items they would like to see on the agenda for the next meeting, please forward them to us.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:00 am

**Next meeting:** June 3, 2015