MCAC Meeting Notes

September 2, 2015

MCAC Members Present: Catherine Cummings, Renee Rulin, Dave Feeney, Tracey Cohen, Patricia Flanagan, Pedro Ochoa, Jody Rich, Roni Del Rio, Nicole Alexander-Scott, Nausheen Hussain, Jean Marie Rocha, Rick Wagner, Chris Gadbois

Interested Parties Present: Anne Neuville, David Swenson

EOHHS Staff Present: Jerry Fingerut, Diana Beaton, Deidre Gifford

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Meeting Convened: 7:00 AM

1. **Welcome & Introductions** –New MCAC members present include: Nausheen Hussain, M.D. representing the RI Health Center Association and Tracey Cohen, M.D., Medical Director, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI.

2. **Medicaid Fee for Services Policies** – Revised Medicaid FFS policies were distributed prior to the meeting for review. They included Negative Pressure Wound Therapy, Orthopedic and Therapeutic Shoes, Pulse Oximetry for Home Use, and Ventilators. The updated policies were sent to committee members in advance for their review. There were no comments on the policies.

   Update on treatment for Hepatitis C - Current policy for Hepatitis C medication pre-authorization process restricts prescribing to preferred providers. This will be expanded to include Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners who are co-located with these preferred providers. We are now including Stage 2 Liver Disease (approval for Stage 2 disease is only for HIV/HCV co-infected patients), in addition to 3 & 4, as criteria for use of direct acting antivirals (Harvoni, Sovaldi). We will have an update on numbers of patients that have gone through the pre-authorization process and the number receiving treatment with these new medications soon.

3. **Reinventing Medicaid Initiatives** - Deidre Gifford, M.D., Medicaid Director, gave an update on three "Reinventing Medicaid" initiatives. There are 52 initiatives in all. The three are: Medicaid Accountable Care Organization-RFI, Hospital and Nursing Home Incentive Program, and Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program.

   A. Medicaid Accountable Care Organization-Request for Information (RFI)
   RFI sets up structure for Accountable Entities (AE) is provider structure. RFI asks for responses

by Sept. 10, 2015. We need to hear from the community what they think the governance, shared savings models, etc. should be. MCAC members or other respondents don't have to comment on the entire RFI. Can comment on a few aspects of it. There will be an application to become a certified AE in the fall of 2015 with a start date of a pilot AE in January 2016.

B. Hospital and Nursing Home Incentive Program
In SFY 2016 there was a rate reduction in both Medicaid FFS and MCOs for hospitals and nursing homes (NH). In addition, as part of the reinventing Medicaid process the state will be developing an incentive program for hospitals and NHs to earn back money based on quality benchmarks. The quality benchmarks and specifics regarding the incentives are still to be determined.

C. Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program
NY State recently received approval from CMS for a 5 year DSRIP Program. The incentives help states make the change from FFS to Accountable Care Organizations. Rhode Island has established two stakeholder advisory groups- one for hospitals and one for NHs. This work will align with the Reinventing Medicaid work that has already begun. The state will be developing a concept paper (broad in scope). We can share it with this committee when completed. The state would have to come up with general revenue (state funds) to match the money the feds offer to do this system reform work. NY State put up $8 billion dollars in state funds for their DSRIP Program.

4. **Dental Reimbursement for Adults on Medicaid FFS**
Pedro Ochoa, DMD presented on dental services for adults on Medicaid. He is new to Rhode Island having practiced in Wisconsin but highlighted: what the covered benefits are, lack of specialty coverage, problems with no shows, comparison of Medicaid reimbursement rates to private dental practice and costs/overhead associated with running a practice. Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott was appreciative of the presentation and wanted to bring this important issue to the MCAC.
Deidre Gifford welcomed the opportunity to work together with Health and others on this. She noted that dental services are an optional benefit for states and are not required. MCAC could host a workgroup on this issue. Jerry Fingerut said we could come back to this topic at a future meeting.

5. **Update on Opioid Issue/Taskforce**
Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott presented on the Governor's Overdose Taskforce which she co-chairs with Maria Montanaro, Director of BHDDH. The taskforce is charged with putting together a comprehensive, strategic plan by Nov 1. Members of the taskforce are working on identifying top priorities for the state. The four priority areas are: prevention, treatment, rescue and recovery. See the survey at www.strategicplanri.org to provide input. The prior authorization process for buprenorphine was discussed by Dr. Jody Rich as being a difficult process when you have a patient who could benefit from it. Deidre Gifford suggested following up on the prior authorization process, bringing the plans and pharmacy together to address the issue.

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 am

Next Meeting: December 2, 2015