

MINUTES
MEDICAL SERVICES FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL
(MSFAC)
TC Energy Conference Room
June 28, 2024

Members and Alternates Present or Online

Sherri Ferrell, WV Primary Care Association, Council Chair
Sarah Young, Deputy Commissioner, BMS (alternate)
Debra Boyd, WV Primary Care Association (alternate)
Richard Bradford, Consumer Representative
Melanie Dempsey, WV Hospital Association Representative
Dr. Lisa Costello, WV State Medical Association Representative (Online)
Gerry Stover, WV Academy of Family Physicians Representative (Online)
Hallie Mason, Dental Representative
Todd Jones, WV Healthcare Association Representative
Martin Wright, WV Healthcare Association (alternate)
Jessica Hall, Hospice Council of West Virginia (Online)
Mark Drennan, WV Behavioral Health Provider Association (alternate)
Brad Story, WV Behavioral Health Provider Association Representative

Bureau for Medical Services Employees (BMS) Present

Margaret Brown
Riley J. Romeo
Dr. Hyla Harvey
Jennifer Myers
Cynthia Parsons
Regina McCormick
Mandy Carpenter
Alice Niday (Online)
Joy Burns (Online)

West Virginia State Government Employees Present or Online

Eric Tarr, WV Senate
Cindy Dellinger, General Counsel, WV Senate
Jeremiah Samples, WV Legislature
Evan Worrell, WV House of Delegates

Interested Parties Present or Online:

Benita Whitman, Legal Aid

Bill Wright, Radiology Inc.

Phil Shimer, TSG Strategies

Jason Landers, Highmark of West Virginia (Online)

Jeff Wiseman, The Health Plan (Online)

Megan Roskovensky, The Health Plan (Online)

John Law, West Virginia State Medical Association (Online)

Lori Kersey, West Virginia Watch (Online)

Rob Rhoton, Myers and Stauffer (Online)

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

- Council Chair, Sherri Ferrell, began the meeting requesting all MSFAC members, who attended in person and online, to introduce themselves and their organization.
- Council Chair Ferrell presented the March 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes.
- Minutes were approved.
- Council Chair Ferrell introduced the BMS Deputy Commissioner of Operations Sarah Young for the Operations and Policy Update.

Policy and Operations Update:

- Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Operations, Sarah Young, reminded the Council that the last Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding update, was the official ending of PHE.
- Medicaid membership has decreased and is returning to its pre-pandemic member enrollment numbers. Since March 2024, member enrollment was 517,000 but has decreased by 1,000 each month. The current June membership enrollment is 513,870.
- Regarding eligibility, the BMS was notified that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be conducting a targeted audit from May 1 to May 31st. The targeted population is:
 - Pregnant women
 - Children's groups
 - Parent caretakers
- The CMS audit results from concerns regarding denials for any reason, procedural versus non-procedural. The CMS will observe 60 cases, 30 being procedural, and 30 being non-procedural.

- The CMS wants to make sure all state Medicaid programs are compliant with renewal requirements with the PHE Unwinding. As of March 2023, the following policy was updated:
 - *Chapter 505, Oral Health Services* – Preventative and restorative benefits were increased from \$1,000 per year to over \$2,000 in two years.
- Deputy Commissioner of Operations Young stated that approximately 800 providers logged into the workshops.
- Deputy Commissioner of Operations Young addressed operations and policy update questions.

Plan Management Update:

- Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Sarah Young, provided the following plan management update:
 - Highmark Health Options of West Virginia will be joining Medicaid as the fourth managed care organization (MCO) effective August 1, 2024.
 - The Managed Care Quality Strategy has been finalized for 2024-2027. Workgroups consisting of stakeholders, and the three current MCOs, worked together to complete the Strategy.
 - The Strategy was posted for public comment, those comments were reviewed. The strategy will be posted to the BMS website and sent to CMS as soon as June 28, 2024.
 - The 1915(c) waiver Mountain Health Promise program renewal was approved. The program represents the Managed Care for Child Welfare and the Children with Serious Emotional Disorders Waiver (CSEDW)
 - Beginning July 2024, MCOs will begin using three dental providers:
 - Liberty Dental
 - Concordia Dental; and
 - Skygen Dental
 - The prior authorization process begins July 1, 2024, requiring providers to submit prior authorizations electronically through an insurer's portal. This includes MCOs and fee-for-service (FFS).

- Deputy Commissioner Young addressed Plan Management update questions.

State Plan Amendment (SPA) Update:

- Riley J. Romeo presented the following SPA:
 - SPA 24-0001, Authorization for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, was presented.
 - Cynthia Parsons, BMS Director of Behavioral Health services, addressed questions regarding SPA 24-0001
 - SPA 24-0001, was approved.

Finance Update:

- Deputy Commissioner of Finance, Mandy Carpenter, provided the following finance update:
 - Costs are coming down due to the PHE concluding which has resulted in decrease in Medicaid membership.
 - Working on projections for 2025.
 - Deputy Commissioner of Finance, Carpenter announce upcoming finance projects. The rating settings will be moving from shared services to the BMS Finance Unit.
 - Providers will be receiving letters announcing reviews of all enhanced payments from PHE to ensure the payments were appropriately used.
 - Deputy Commissioner of Finance Carpenter addressed questions.

Public Comment:

- There were no public comments. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:
Margaret Y. Brown
Bureau for Medical Services