



Medical Care Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of Meeting
August 18, 2009
10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Members Present:

John G. Black, MD	J.T. McLawhorn
Charles P. Darby, MD	James M. DuRant, Jr.
Thompson A. Gailey, MD	C. Earl Hunter
Andy Pope, DrPH	Sabra C. Slaughter, PhD
Ralph Riley, MD	Caughman Taylor, MD
Lynn E. Connelly, R.Ph.	Sue B. Berkowitz
William P. Moran, MD,MS	James Mercer

Members Absent:

Greta Harper, MD
Richard K. Harding, MD
Lyndon Key, MD
C. Earl Hunter

I. Call to Order – Committee Chairman

With the Chairman joining later, Dr. James Durant, committee member, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Committee members and guest introduce themselves.

II. Approval of May 19, 2009 Minutes of Meeting – Committee Chairman

Upon motion and second, minutes of May 19, 2009 meeting were approved.

III. Director's Report– Emma Forkner, Agency Director

Ms. Forkner referred everyone to the handouts to follow her reporting. First, a Summary of the Renewal and Amendment Process for DDSN Waivers were reviewed noting the chronology of communications regarding the waivers. Ms. Forkner reported that since July, there are two waiver renewals and an amendment that will be discussed later on the agenda and the details surrounding these waivers.

Ms. Forkner reported the latest numbers (August 1st) on the Healthy Connections Choices Program, SCHIP, and Healthy Connections Kids (HCK) Program. Approximately 414,000 people are participating in Healthy Connections Choices – representing approximately 60% of the eligible population - HCK Kids is right at 14,000 - Fee for Service is about 333,000 at this point.

The Congressional Delegation will ask us to give input and projections on the impact of the Health Care Reforms Options – within all of the options is some type of Medicaid expansion. The versions were discussed and the handouts provided detailed review. Ms. Forkner mentioned that this is fast moving and she will keep the Committee informed.

ARRA Legislation – A substantial part of the legislation says that we are going to transform Health Information Technology – by the year 2015 – every US citizen will have an electronic health record. Ms. Forkner noted how big this legislation is. Incentives will be provided through Medicare and Medicaid entitlement payments to providers to help cover the purchase of electronic medical systems – noting the handouts provide information to take you through the process. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the Committee. Ms. Forkner shared DHHS’ partnership with the Health Sciences South Carolina in hosting the Health Information Technology Summits where we are attempting to define what does the state have in place – what can we leverage and how can we put together a statewide framework that will allow the providers in South Carolina to meet the conditions to get the entitlement monies so that they can comply with the Federal legislation. Dates of upcoming Summits were shared. Ms. Forkner shared that the Health Information Exchange for the State is going to be SCHIEEx – a technical solution already in place and it is currently being used. There are planning and implementation grants available for which we will be applying.

VI. Fiscal Report – William Wells, Deputy Director, Finance and Administration

Mr. Wells reported the when the B&CB met, no action was taken – as they are awaiting an update from the Board of Economic Advisors. The State Budget Office did instruct all agencies to prepare for a 4.04 percent reduction to our general funds. Following, the Comptroller had a press release to announce how the state ended FY09 – going over the budget by 100 million dollars. DHHS expenditures FY09 were 13% higher than FY08. Mr. Wells discussed the many contributing factors to cause this increase in expenditures. As Ms. Jacobs will share with you in her Eligibility Report, we are seeing an increase in the number of people on Medicaid – mostly children – approximately 30,000. Next, Mr. Wells referred to a chart showing July 08 before budget cuts and now after all the budget cuts of ’09. The 2010 base budget for Medicaid is approximately 798 million. Stimulus money was discussed and it was noted that unused stimulus monies had to be returned. Distribution of the money can be found in Proviso 90.13. After member comments and discussion, Mr. Wells wrapped up his reports going through services that can and cannot be approached to deal with the budget reductions.

V. Eligibility Report – Alicia Jacobs, Deputy Director, Eligibility and Beneficiary Services

Ms. Jacobs began sharing the enrollments chart reminding everyone again that the numbers are preliminary and they will go up. The final number for April is 771,380 eligibles showing a steady incline. This time last year the number was 740,000. Currently, there are approximately 452,000 kids enrolled. Ms. Jacobs clarified the “Other Adults” category includes Family Planning, Low-Income Families, Pregnant Women – non disabled adults. Next, the chart comparing enrollment to the unemployment rate was reviewed. Outreach initiatives were discussed in detail.

VI. Committee Advisement Items –

Hospital Reimbursement Update Effective October 1, 2009

Nursing Facility Rate Update October 1, 2009

Presented by: William Wells, Deputy Director, Finance and Administration

Dr. Darby asked for motion of approval on both Advisements – motion was made – second - Items approved as presented.

**Amendment to the Healthy Connections Kids State Plan Amendment
Withdrawal of the Benchmark State Plan Amendment**

Presented by: Alicia Jacobs, Deputy Director, Medicaid Eligibility and Beneficiary Services

Dr. Darby asked for motion of approval on both Advisements– motion was made – second - Items approved as presented.

**Renewal of the Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities Waiver
Renewal of the Pervasive Developmental Disorder Waiver
Amendment to the HASCI Waiver**

Presented by: Felicity Myers, Deputy Director, Medical Services

Dr. Darby asked for motion of approval on all Advisements– motion was made – second - Items approved as presented.

VII. Closing Comments – Committee Chairman

Dr. Darby announced that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009.

VIII. Adjournment