**MAINECARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

**On the phone:**

Aimee Campbell O’Connor

Kristin Merrill

Vicki McCarty

**Present:**

Michelle Probert

Sarah Grant

Tom Leet

Esther Bullard

Lisa Weaver

Mary Schneckenburger

Al Durgin

Kathy Adams

Suzanne. Farley

Betsy Mahoney

David Winslow

Melanie Roger

Kathy Kilrain del Rio

Malory Shaughnessy

Jillian Jolicoeur

Judy Seals

Lydia Dawson

Sarah Squires

Cathy with Maine Equal Justice

**Introductions**

* Director Michelle Probert gave a brief overview of her background and vision for MaineCare and the MAC.
* Michelle expressed her desire to utilize the MAC as a resource and her interest in building dialogue.

**MAC Chair**

* Tom Leet noted that Jack Comart’s retirement creates a vacancy for the Chair position. Tom asked if the group wished to collect nominations for candidates to fill the role.
* A question was posed regarding requirements for the position. Tom shared the specifics from MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter I:

1.25-4 **Chairperson and Subcommittees**

A. **Chairperson**

The Committee shall have a Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be a member or member representative.

B. **Election of Chairperson**

 The members of the Committee shall elect the Chairperson at the first meeting of the Committee following Labor Day.

C. **Duties of Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall:

a. Preside at meetings of the Committee;

b. Plan the agenda for Committee meetings in consultation with the staff;

c. Have the power to call special meetings of the Committee;

d. Serve, ex-officio, and without vote, on all subcommittees;

f. Act as official representative interpreting and disseminating decisions of the Committee; and

 g. Appoint the chairperson of each subcommittee.

* It was noted that the Chair has, historically, been a consumer. There was also a Vice-chair who ran meetings in the Chair’s absence and served as a sounding board to the Chair.
* Sara Squires, former Chair of the MAC, shared her concern that there was a usefulness to the MAC that MaineCare staff was not availing itself to.
* Vicki echoed Sara’s comment. She noted the group is excited to get back to doing real work.
* Lydia Dawson noted she does not believe MaineCare relied on the MAC enough.
* Kathy Adams noted MaineCare should use the MAC’s expertise to help guide what is being worked on, rather than asking for feedback after decisions are made.
* The MAC requested a list of names of official members of the committee. They would like to review the membership before choosing a Chair.

**MAC Communication**

* Lydia Dawson asked how the transition in DHHS leadership will impact pending rule-making. The MAC would like to know if the rules will continue to go forward or if they are being rejected.
* Michelle asked that the group put together a list of topics they are interested in providing feedback on.
* The MAC requested a list of contacts for the various MaineCare departments as well as an updated Provider Relations Specialist list.

**Rule Status Update – MAC Questions and Requests**

* Section 25 Dental: The plan is to bring the policy to the May MDAC Meeting for their review and then re-propose the rule.
* Section 28: Lydia noted that Section 28, Chapter II, will be hard to implement without clarification if there will be an introduction of Bachelor Level BHP’s. There’s no billing code for it.
* Section 106: The question was posed as to whether the Department has pulled back form or taken a position on the draft 106 School based Services rule.
* What is the status of lab Services?
* What is the status of Section 65?
* The MAC would like to be updated when rate studies have been proposed.
* An April meeting date will be set to go through the Rule Statuses more thoroughly.

**Agenda Suggestions for Next Meeting**

* Lydia Dawson will gather suggestions form the MAC members as to the topics attendees would like to see as top priority.
* The MAC would like to discuss their concerns around the solicitation of case managers. Case managers are being recruited to other agencies and when they leave their current posts they are taking their entire caseload of clients with them. The MAC feels strongly that the practice is a violation of Chapter I. Who’s looking out for the consumer? Case managers are signing on to agencies with non-compete agreements, but the non-competes are not working.