**MAINECARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

**On the phone:**

Leo Delicata

Julie Brennan

Rosemary with Maliseet Indians

Vicki McCarty

**Present:**

Michelle Probert

Sarah Grant

Tom Leet

Esther Bullard

Lea Studholme

Denise Osgood

Lisa Weaver

Mary Schneckenburger

Al Durgin

Rachel Dyer

Suzanne Farley

Natalie Childs

Betsy Mahoney

Kane Loukas

Jeff Tiner

Kathy Adams

Mark Eves

Cathy Dionne

David Winslow

Melanie Roger

Kathy Kilrain del Rio

Malory Shaughnessy

Judy Seals

Lydia Dawson

**Discussion Of MAC Membership with Sarah Grant**

* Tom Leet confirmed that MAC meetings are open to the public.
* Sarah Grant presented a draft of a spreadsheet she created to track MAC representation across a broad spectrum of different lived experiences to ascertain the membership reflects a balance of provider and member viewpoints across all areas.
* Sarah asked for input on any changes that might be necessary and solicited ideas on how to find individuals to represent areas where there are gaps in representation balance.
* MAC suggestions:
* Lydia Dawson suggested that children’s services could be added as a separate category.
* Homelessness was suggested as a possible addition to the categories.
* Well Spring requested to be added under substance use disorder services.
* It was noted that Woodfords does not provide substance use disorder services.
* Denise Osgood noted that the Maine CDC and Public Health touch across a clear majority of the headers.
* Kathy Kilrain del Rio noted that Maine Equal Justice can help with member recommendations.
* The MAC discussed how many individuals are represented in each category. Sarah Grant noted that there are not specific numbers for each column but that all areas are represented.

**Review of Draft of possible Chapter I, Section 1 language revision with Tom Leet**

* Tom Leet covered possible changes to Chapter I, Section 1, language around MAC requirements.
* Tom Leet has re-inserted language that was removed in the last Chapter I rulemaking, including the paragraph concerning the role of the MAC.
* Language allowing non-members to serve on MAC sub-committees has been added back in, along with the language around the Vice Chair position.
* Language allowing members of the MAC to send delegates to the meeting in their absence has been added back in.
* The maximum group size of the MAC has been increased from 15 to 18.
* Director Michelle Probert will officially invite members, once membership decisions are finalized.
* MAC suggestions:
* Dee Sabattus asked for a tribal representative on the committee.
* Has the three-year term for MAC members has worked out historically?
* It was noted that there is value in having parameters set out for the MAC, and the request was made that the bulleted list be inserted back into rule.

**Review of Group Priorities Document with Lydia Dawson**

Lydia compiled and reviewed the MAC concerns.

* **Communication**
* The community would benefit from consistent updated information on staffing changes and stakeholder meetings. Email notification has been effective in the past.
* Setting consistent MAC meetings and membership so that community members can follow up with MAC members directly.
* **Rate Setting**
* Lack of consistent review of rates has led to service delivery concerns.
* Labor cost increases without review of rates has exacerbated the workforce crisis.
* Specific rates that have gone more than a decade without a review need immediate attention.
* **Children’s Services**
* The PCG report illuminated problems in the delivery of children’s behavioral health services, including lack of effective and targeted interventions for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
* There are children out of state for residential services while we have residential services are available in Maine.
* There are long waitlists for children’s behavioral health services, specifically community-based services.
* There remains concern about the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities and the impact of the potential demonstration waiver to encourage creation of new institutions.
* **Crisis Services**
* Both the mental health and developmental services crisis systems are unable to meet capacity to respond to crisis in the community. This is exacerbated by workforce concerns which make it difficult to remain fully and appropriately staffed.
* Out-of-home placements are disproportionately utilized to replace unavailable community placements.
* **Assistive Technology**
* MaineCare members do not have consistent access to Assistive Technology (AT) services and devices to impact and support their independence, safety, and productivity.
* Lack of AT providers and process to streamline approval of providers for all services and device approval. It was noted that access to AT is problematic.
* **Non-Emergency Transportation (NET)**
* The NET system has been inconsistent in notice requirements, subcontracting agreements, complaints, and trip scheduling and follow through.
	+ Concern that appropriate notice through NET for terminations from rides is not happening.
	+ Members do not know where complaints should go and there is a belief that transporters can stop providing transportation whenever they want. There is no due process around written notification. Brokers are cancelling transportation due to weather over wide regions.
* Concerns about transporting children with adults.
* Concerns about requiring escorts and disproportionate impact on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and who utilize visual general communication.
* **Interpreter Services**
* Concern that getting access to the service is difficult. The entire structure around interpreters is problematic. It was requested that we look at language around interpreter services.
* **Child and Adult Protective Services**
* General concerns around the mandating reporting process as there are reforms in both the APS and CPS systems.

Lydia will upload the document to Google Docs for MAC members can edit it and make comments.

**MAC Subcommittees**

* The question was posed as to whether the MAC is at a point where we can begin developing sub-committees.
* The following sub-committees were suggested.
* Transportation
* Interpreter services
* Children’s services
* Rate Setting
* Communications
* Assistive technology access
* Prevention
* Currently Chapter I MAC language specifies that the MAC chair is obligated to be on every subcommittee. It was suggested that the requirement be changed so they communicate with all the sub committees, but they do not have to attend each subcommittee meeting.
* Denise inquired as to where fraud awareness fits into the advisory committee and if someone from Program Integrity might attend the MAC to represent the unit.
* The vote to choose a chair was tabled until May.

**Review of MaineCare Rule Status Update with Tom Leet**

* The group inquired about the status of Section 106, School Based Services. Tom will follow up at the next meeting.
* The group inquired about the status of Section 65. Tom noted possible changes to the rule are on hold while we engage in emergency rule making to remove the PA language.
* The MAC expressed interest in seeing drafts and hang pre-rule conversations.
* A concern surrounding MST, FFP rates was expressed. The feeling is that a lot of MaineCare providers will stop offering the service if no rate adjustment is made.
* The question was posed as to whether there is an EVV requirement for Section 28.
* Sarah asked the MAC to reach out to members encouraging them to complete the member survey in the hopes of getting it in front of as many members as possible

**Agenda Suggestions for Next Meeting**

* MAC Chair discussion
* Discussion surrounding how the MAC might support legislative initiatives. Would the Department be willing to share its bill tracking info?
* Discussion surrounding concerns around the need for a better understanding of the clinic upper payment limit. Who does the state contract with as a consultant for clinic upper pay limit?
* The MAC would like Michelle to share her rate setting presentation.