

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2020
10:00 a.m. to noon
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5th.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

MaineCare Advisory Committee Members: Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Vickie McCarty; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Laura Cordes; Jaime Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Mike Hallundbaek; Jillian Jolicoeur; Marge Kilkelly; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Atlee Reilly; Mary Schneckeburger; Judy Seals; Jeff Tiner; Susan White; David Winslow.

MaineCare Staff: Sarah Grant; Tom Leet; Bill Logan; Michelle Probert; Molly Slotznick Lea Studholme; Lisa Weaver.

Guests: Sana Abduljabbar; Jill Adams; Kathy Adams; Julie Brennan; Kirsten Capeless; Erin Colgan ; ; Brooke Holton; Malory Shaughnessy; Sana Osman;

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) DHHS COVID-19 Update with Michelle Probert

- Priority is providing flexibility and support to members.
 - Waived co pays.
 - Made sure members with prescriptions can have medication for longer periods of time.
 - Prior authorization waived for certain conditions/medications.
 - On the enrollment side of things, in alignment with the Federal Cares Act, members will not lose enrollment if they do not submit their reenrollment during public health emergency.
 - Attempting to provide coverage for testing and diagnosis services for uninsured.
 - Appendix K request submitted.

- Priority is providing flexibility and support to providers.
 - COVID 19 webpage established.
 - Working on FAQ's to get guidance out.
 - Payment supports to providers on the front lines of the pandemic directly serving COVID 19 positive members in hospitals and residential care settings.
 - Special supplemental hospital payment has been distributed.

Mark Eves asked about funding sources, and whether funding from the Cares Act might be available to the State.

Jim Martin emphasized the need for additional support. As providers try to prepare for the next fiscal year, they are having to look at cutting back on services and programs and they are facing significant financial losses. The current support doesn't come close to covering the deficit.

b) **Review of Rulemaking with Tom Leet**

- Applied for Disaster SPA and Appendix K.
- An amendment to the COVID-19 emergency rule is in progress.
- Chapter I, Section 4, Telehealth rule is in draft and will be noticed soon as a proposed rule with a 30-day comment period.
- Section 65 emergency and proposed rules will be noticed in the next week or two.
- Section 45 Hospital rule should be moving to APA process.
- Section 21 waiver renewal has been submitted to CMS.

c) **MaineCare Updates on Data and Questions from MAC Members with Michelle Probert**

d) **MaineCare Enrollment Update**

Esther Bullard noted the Department is caught up on enrollment processing.

Kathy noted a lot of people may not have a lot of experience dealing with safety net programs like MaineCare may not understand they are now eligible. Are there ways the MAC can be helpful in spreading the word to folks who are eligible?

Michelle noted yes, and the Department will work with the MAC to figure out how we can collaborate.

e) **Outreach by Agencies to Clients During COVID-19 Emergency**

The MAC noted that there are some providers and members who are reluctant to use telehealth technology. There are a significant amount of clients who are not engaging.

Rachel Dyer surveyed 148 families of DD children. 26% had not heard from their case manager. 11% are struggling with kids who are having increased behavior challenges. A small percent are not able to use telehealth because of the nature of the child's issue.

Some providers have purchased tablets on their own to distribute to clients in order to increase access to technology.

Michelle shared the link to the New England Telehealth Resource Center.

The MAC asked for additional info re: Life Line phones.

f) **Any questions/concerns about rates or provider communication with the Dept?**

The MAC expressed the concern that there will be a higher need for behavioral health services after all the disruption from the virus.

g) **Items From Guests.**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11 55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver