

MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, May 27, 2021
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: GoToWebinar

Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be held through GoToWebinar only. Please register for MMAC Meeting on May 27, 2021 1:00 p.m. EST at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8081023846813750800>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Those who would like to make public comment should email Ms. Claire Gregory at, Claire.Gregory@maryland.gov or use the question feature to submit questions to the host.

AGENDA

- I. Departmental Report
 - In June 2021, the Department will submit its Maryland HealthChoice Program §1115 Waiver Renewal Application to CMS
 - Information regarding public hearing registration and the draft application can be found on the Maryland HealthChoice Program §1115 Waiver website: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pages/1115-healthchoice-waiver-renewal.aspx>
 - Current public comment period: May 3, 2021-June 4, 2021
 - First Public Hearing was 5/11/21, 10:00-12:00 pm
 - **Second Public Hearing is today, 5/27/21, 3:00-5:00 pm**
 - Combined with HealthChoice Post Award Forum Hearing
- II. HealthChoice Evaluation
- III. Waiver, State Plan and Regulations Changes
 - Maryland Medicaid Health IT Provider Survey: Monday, May 17, 2021-Monday June 14, 2021
- IV. Public Comments
- V. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 24, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Staff Contact: Ms. Claire Gregory
Claire.Gregory@maryland.gov

**MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 22, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Shannon Hall
Rachel Dodge, M.D.
Winifred Booker, D.D.S
Ms. Marie McLendon
Ms. Nora Hoban
Mr. Ben Steffen
Ms. Jessica Dickerson
Ms. Vickie Walters
Ms. Maansi Raswant
Mr. Kenneth Garove
Mr. William Webb
Ms. Nicole McCann
Mr. Paul Miller
Kathryn Fiddler, DNP

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Adeteju Ogunrinde, M.D
The Hon. Joseline Peña-Melnyk
The Hon. Matthew Morgan
Ms. Robin Moore
Mr. Vincent DeMarco
The Hon. Antonio Hayes
The Hon. Pat Young
Ms. Linda Dietsch
Ms. Diane McComb
Ms. Anna Sierra
Mr. Floyd Hartley

Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee

April 22, 2021

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Vickie Walters, Chair, called to order the meeting of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee (MMAC) at 1:00 p.m. Committee members approved the minutes from the March 22, 2021 meeting as written.

Departmental Report and COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Tricia Roddy, Assistant Medicaid Director, provided the Committee with a combined Departmental report and COVID-19 update.

Enrollment continues to grow (see attached chart). We are currently serving 1,580,502 Maryland residents. As long as the Department is receiving the 6.2% enhanced federal matching assistance during the federal public health emergency, we cannot disenroll individuals.

The Department is actively working on ensuring Medicaid enrollees receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We are working with CRISP in generating lists of individuals at all different age groups who have not received, at minimum, an initial dose and we are providing those lists to our call center. The call center is actively placing calls and doing outreach to individuals. We are also giving these lists to the Baltimore Convention Center so they can do their own outreach as well. This does not include the other outreach initiatives that the managed care organizations (MCOs) and local health departments (LHDs) as well as other providers are doing. The Governor has launched his No Arms Left Behind campaign and the Department will continue to support those efforts to make sure that every individual receives the vaccine.

In June 2021, the Department will submit its Maryland HealthChoice Program §1115 Waiver Renewal Application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS requires us to have an annual post-forum hearing to allow stakeholders and interested parties to comment on the 1115 waiver and hear how the Department is doing under the waiver. The first public hearing is scheduled on May 11, 2021 from 10:00-12:00 p.m. and the second public hearing on May 27, 2021 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Information regarding public hearing registration and the draft application can be found on the Maryland HealthChoice Program §1115 Waiver website: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/pages/1115-healthchoice-waiver-renewal.aspx> Full draft of the application will be available for public comment on 5/3/21.

Our application will continue to request coverage of all of the programs that we have been covering under the waiver. We have committed to requesting a new amendment in the application. We have a waiver to cover residential substance use services in our current terms and conditions. We are committed to applying for a waiver amendment to cover psychiatric institutions for mental disease (IMD) in the next application. It will look similar to the substance use disorder (SUD) waiver amendment where we cover two 30-day non-consecutive stays in a rolling calendar year.

This legislative session the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) funded a couple of supplemental budgets. DBM funded \$92 million for physician fees. These monies will be used to ensure the evaluation and management (E&M) codes remain at 93 percent of Medicare. The Department tries to match our E&M rates to Medicare; however, Medicare changed its

methodology for calculating E&M code rates. In order to maintain the rates at 93 percent of Medicare, we had to put in an additional \$92 million into physician fees.

DBM also funded an initiative that allows the Department to expand eligibility for pregnant women. Currently we cover pregnant women up to two months post-partum but the expansion will allow us to cover pregnant women for an additional ten months. That supplemental budget also allows us to provide dental benefits during that post-partum period.

Our Community Options waiver allows nursing home level of care individuals to receive care in the community. We cover individuals under that waiver at a higher income level -- 300% in SSI -- and there is a registry and waiting list. DBM has funded an additional 400 slots for this program.

Legislative Wrap-Up

Mr. Chris Coats, Health Policy Analyst, Office of Innovation, Research and Development, gave the Committee an overview of bills the Department is monitoring this legislative session (see attached chart). There was an unprecedented number of pre-filed bills, close to 800 bills before the session even started. This year we got busier than usual faster than usual with that amount of pre-files. What that meant for the Department is several of those bills got introduced early in the session and were put on the hearing schedule right away. Normally in a session the month of January is more about briefings on various issues that various members want to hear about, however, this year they got started right away with bill hearings. There was a general feeling amongst members that the session could get cut short like last year if there was a surge of COVID cases this winter. Members were hedging their bets and trying to get their bills in as early as possible to get a hearing and get voted on. The legislative session did make it to the 90 day conclusion and they adjourned on April 12, 2021.

The Governor held a bill signing day the day after session ended. Traditionally there are three more bill signing dates spread across April and May but that might not be the case this year. Last year they did have a bill signing date after the session ended but none after that and sometime in May the Governor had a press release with the bills that he was going to veto and those that would become law without his signature. Something like that may end up happening this year as well.

American Rescue Plan

Ms. Heather Forsyth, Director, Consumer Assistance, Eligibility and Business Integration at the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange, gave the Committee an overview of the provisions of the American Rescue Act that MHBE has been implementing and its impact (see attached presentation).

Waiver, State Plan and Regulation Changes

Ms. Molly Marra, Director, Medicaid Provider Services, gave the Committee a status update on waivers, regulations and state plan amendment changes.

Waivers – Public comment periods are now closed for the Brain Injury, Home and Community Based Options and Medical Day Care Services waivers and the waiver renewal applications were submitted to CMS.

Regulations – Several regulations are working their way through the process. School-Based Health Centers regulation changes are moving forward with adding payment procedures for physicians and nurse practitioners billing as SBHC sponsoring agencies. The Maryland HealthChoice Program: VBP regulation changes are now final.

State Plan Amendments (SPAs) – The Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program has been approved by CMS. Work continues on the Family Planning Eligibility and the Coverage of the Administration of COVI-19 Vaccinations SPAs. SPAs submitted last month include: Nursing Facility, DDA Targeted Case Management, 1915i and BH Health Home rate increases, Providers allowed to order home health services, Medication Assisted Treatment and External Supplies and Products.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Ms. Walters adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.