

Georgia Department of Community Health  
Hospital Advisory Committee Meeting  
October 25, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. Committee members attending were:

HOSPITAL/ASSOCIATION	MEMBER/DESIGNEE
Athens Regional Medical Center	Larry Webb
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta	David Tatum
Columbus Regional Healthcare System	Roland Thacker
Crisp Regional Hospital	Wayne Martin
Flint River Community Hospital	Andy Smith
Floyd Medical Center	Rick Sheerin
Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals	Julie Windom
Georgia Hospital Association	Joe Parker
Grady Health System	Dr. Andy Agwunobi
HomeTown Health	Jimmy Lewis
Medical Center of Central Georgia	Rhonda Perry
Medical College of Georgia	Don Snell
Memorial Health University Medical Center	Bob Colvin
Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital	Kerry Loudermilk
Shepherd Center	Dr. Gary Ulicny
Sumter Regional Hospital	David Seagraves
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton	Lee Sherseth
Wheeler County Hospital	Brenda Josey

The minutes for the meeting on September 29, 2005 were approved without changes. Co-chairmen Bob Colvin and David Seagraves reviewed the meeting agenda and reminded members that no decisions had been made, so that the advisory committee was working with a "clean slate."

The committee received a report from Glenn Pearson, chairman of the data subcommittee. Mr. Pearson reviewed the charge to the subcommittee and then presented a summary description of key issues that the data subcommittee had considered. Committee members were also provided with a draft copy of a DSH data survey that was prepared by Jim Erickson and Kevin Londeen of Myers & Stauffer, based on recommendations of the data subcommittee. Recognizing that no DSH payments can be made until reliable survey data can be collected, committee members discussed the merits of allowing sufficient time to refine the survey instrument and for hospitals to complete the survey accurately. The committee agreed to the following approach:

- The data subcommittee would be asked to finalize the DSH survey form for consideration at the next committee meeting. Mr. Pearson estimated that the data subcommittee would likely need to conduct two additional meetings, and he would work toward having the survey form ready at the next committee meeting.

- The target date for issuing the survey to hospitals would be December 1, and hospitals should be allowed 30 days for completion.
- The target date for the advisory committee completing its recommendations for DSH eligibility and funding would be January 2006.

On the related issue of the timing of future DSH payments, the following items were discussed:

- Any recommendations made by the advisory committee and accepted by the Department would be subject to review and approval by the Board of Community Health and by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
- There are no provisions currently in effect governing DSH payments, and given the uncertainty of final committee recommendations, there is no basis by which interim DSH payments could be made.
- Future DSH payments could be made in March 2006 at the earliest, but it could be later in 2006 before payments will be made.

Co-chairmen Bob Colvin and David Seagraves presented a summary listing of “Key Decisions in Reform of the ICTF,” including three major decisions:

- How will the ICTF be financed?
- Who will be eligible for ICTF/DSH funds?
- How will ICTF/DSH funds be allocated among eligible hospitals?

Mr. Colvin and Mr. Seagraves also reported to the committee that they had conferred with hospital consultants Lin Harris of Draffin & Tucker, Gary Redding of Aon Consulting and Jeff Harris of Spivey-Harris about reference information that could be useful to the committee. Jeff Harris presented the committee with information regarding Georgia’s DSH program as well as information about several other states. In response to questions about the possible interrelationship between DSH and UPL funding, Carie Summers, DCH Chief Financial Officer, advised the committee about the current status of the UPL program. In response to CMS inquiries regarding the characteristics of Georgia’s public providers, DCH has been working with GHA and the Georgia Health Care Association as well as with provider representatives to develop a survey instrument. Additionally, DCH has been providing CMS with detailed information regarding updated methodologies for calculating current year UPL payment amounts. Kevin Londeen of Myers & Stauffer presented information about UPL payments being a component of required DSH calculations. The committee discussed the goal of developing coordinated UPL and DSH calculations in order to maximize available federal funds.

Commissioner Burgess concurred, noting that even though all funds would be retained by hospitals, such funding would be beneficial to the State. The committee requested that hospital consultants Lin Harris, Gary Redding and Jeff Harris meet with DCH and the Myers & Stauffer consultants to propose specific policy options that the advisory committee could consider. With regard to its planning process, after an extended discussion, the committee agreed that it should proceed with discussing policy options, rather than wait on DSH survey data that might indicate the facility-specific impact of any alternatives being considered.

Georgia Department of Community Health  
Hospital Advisory Committee Meeting  
October 25, 2005  
Page 3

The next meeting of the hospital advisory committee was scheduled for November 21 at 10 a.m., with DCH to provide a meeting notice and draft minutes. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.