

Board of Community Health
Meeting
December 10, 2020

Members Present

Norman Boyd
Allana Cummings
Roger Folsom
Mark Trail
David Crews
Russ Childers
Russell Crutchfield
Anthony Williamson

Members Absent

Kenneth Davis

The Board of Community Health held its meeting via WebEx teleconference. (An agenda and a List of Attendees are attached hereto and made an official part of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2). Chairman Norman Boyd presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes

The Minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Comments

Audit Committee:

- Members present: Russ Childers, Mark Trail and David Crews
- FY 2019 Audit: Financial findings-3; federal award items-6

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Berry thanked the Board, members of the public and staff for their participation via WebEx.

Commissioner Berry updated the Board on the following:

- December 8, 2020, presented at the 32nd Biennial Institute for Georgia Legislators.
- Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) status is at a warm state (can receive patients in approximately 36-48 hours, if needed).
- Participated in discussions with Governor Brian P. Kemp along with long-term care (LTC) and hospital associations to discuss their needs.
- Thanked front-line workers

- Movement of the database for LTC facilities from the national guard to DCH; the system may be down until December 14, 2020

Lynnette Rhodes, Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for final adoption the 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application to extend postpartum services Public Notice.

Pending final adoption from the Board and approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), we propose to extend postpartum services for pregnant women from sixty (60) days to one hundred and eighty (180) days or six months.

Per the provisions of HB 1114, the Department was directed to provide postpartum care for mothers for a period of six months following the date the woman gives birth. Additionally, HB 1114 required the Department to submit a waiver application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Department proposed to submit a five-year 1115 Demonstration Waiver application that is intended to reduce postpartum maternal morbidity and mortality in the state of Georgia. The Demonstration Waiver will improve access to quality care and ensure continuity of care and care coordination during the postpartum period. The 1115 Demonstration Waiver, once approved, will grant the authority required to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from sixty (60) days to one hundred and eighty (180) days or six months.

There were two opportunities for public comment:

1. October 15, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. via WebEx
2. October 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Savannah, Georgia, and will take place in-person.

Written comments were accepted on or before November 9, 2020.

One oral comment was received from:

- Jesse Weathington, representing the Georgia Quality Healthcare Association

Fourteen written comments were received from 35 organizations and one individual:

- Jennifer Schroeder
- Breana N. Lipscomb, MPH, Center for Reproductive Rights
- Maternal Mortality Stakeholders Group (MMSG)
- ACLU of Georgia
- Boys & Girls Club of Baldwin and Jones Counties, Inc.
- Community Partnership
- Family Counseling Center of Central Georgia
- Feminist Women's Health Center
- Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
- Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)

- Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center
- Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association
- Georgia Watch
- Greater Valdosta United Way
- Health Systems Consulting
- Houston County Volunteer Medic
- Meals on Wheels of Baldwin County, Georgia
- Medical Association of Georgia
- Mercy Care
- SisterSong
- United Way of Central Georgia
- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- United Way of South Central Georgia
- United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley
- United Way of Thomas County
- Warner Robbins Daycare Center
- Laura Colbert, Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF)
- Tara Hall, Interfaith Children’s Movement (ICM), Inc.
- Melissa Kottke, MD, Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society
- Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA)
- Erica Fener Sitkoff, Voices for Georgia’s Children
- Ruth Cline, MD, Georgia Chapter, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
- Laura Harker, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
- Keri F. Conley, Georgia Hospital Association (GHA)
- Alicia Stallworth, Planned Parenthood Southeast, Inc.
- Hugo Scornik, MD, Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (GAAAP)

The following is a summary of the comments received:

1. All responders were in support of the expansion of postpartum services from sixty (60) days to one hundred and eighty (180) days or six months.

DCH Response: The Department appreciates the support and thanks everyone for their responses.

There were no questions from the board regarding the Department’s response.

2. A responder expressed concerns that the proposed waiver does not incorporate mothers who will deliver between January 2021 and March 2021. The responder indicated that this will result in an interruption of service, pose a hardship to members, and thus is not an ideal implementation.

DCH Response: DCH will extend a “transition period” to mothers whose 60-day postpartum benefits, prior to this Demonstration, would have expired between June 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021. For example, in the case of an April 15, 2021 delivery,

mothers will be permitted to seamlessly benefit from the extended postpartum coverage proffered in this Demonstration. Due to budgetary constraints, the Demonstration Waiver does not contemplate a transition period for mothers whose 60-day postpartum benefits expire prior to June 1, 2021.

There were no questions from the board regarding the Department's response.

3. Several responders expressed support of the expansion of postpartum services from sixty (60) days to one hundred and eighty (180) days or six months but urged the state to extend postpartum coverage to twelve (12) months after the date of delivery.

DCH Response: The General Assembly appropriated \$59,704,892 to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage for an additional four months. DCH acknowledges the request to extend postpartum services to twelve months and may reconsider this request at a later date.

There were no questions from the board regarding the Department's response.

4. Two responders expressed support of the expansion of postpartum services from sixty (60) days to one hundred and eighty (180) days or six months, but recommended the state expand Medicaid coverage as permitted under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The responders indicated that full Medicaid expansion would support the financial sustainability of the Medicaid program by yielding savings in a variety of Medicaid programs and ensure fewer coverage gaps.

DCH Response: While DCH acknowledges the desire of some stakeholders to expand Medicaid as allowed under the Affordable Care Act, the state of Georgia has not opted to expand Medicaid at this time. On December 23, 2019, DCH submitted an 1115 Demonstration Waiver that provides Georgia residents a pathway to Medicaid coverage if they meet certain qualifying criteria. The new Pathways to Coverage 1115 Demonstration Waiver will provide coverage to individuals ages 19-64, whose income is up to 100% FPL, who meet qualifying criteria such as full-time enrollment in an institution of higher education, vocational educational training, employment, or on the job training. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the Georgia Pathways to Coverage 1115 Demonstration Waiver on October 15, 2020. The Georgia Pathways to Coverage 1115 Demonstration Waiver will be implemented on July 1, 2021. Implementation of both the 1115 Demonstration waiver to extend postpartum services and the Pathways to Coverage 1115 waiver will improve access to care, reduce the number of uninsured Georgians, improve the overall health of low-income Georgians, and ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Medicaid program.

Ms. Rhodes respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of final adoption.

Mark Trail MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption the 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application to extend postpartum services Public Notice. Russell Crutchfield

SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application to extend postpartum services Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #2).

Melanie Simon, Executive Director, Healthcare Facility Regulation presented to the Board for initial adoption the revised Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of General Licensing and Enforcement Requirements, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-25.

The rules are being revised pursuant to the authority granted the Department of Community Health in O.C.G.A. § 31-6-21 and O.C.G.A. § 31-6-21.1.

This change is necessary to comply with portions of House Bill 987, the "Disabled Adults and Elder Persons Protection Act," pertaining to enforcement fines, memory care certificates and other matters.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., via WebEx. Written comments will be accepted on or before January 15, 2021.

Ms. Simon respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of initial adoption.

Roger Folsom MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption the Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of General Licensing and Enforcement Requirements, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-25 Public Notice. Russ Childers SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of General Licensing and Enforcement Requirements, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-25 Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

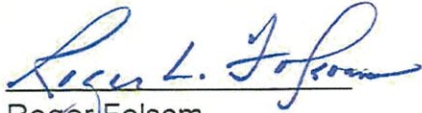
New Business/Closing Comments

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Boyd thanked healthcare workers.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Norman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 10th DAY OF December, 2020.



Roger Folsom
Member



Norman Boyd
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application to extend postpartum services Public Notice
- #4 Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of General Licensing and Enforcement Requirements, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-25