

Board of Community Health
Meeting
April 11, 2024

Members Present

Norman Boyd
Roger Folsom
David Crews
Anthony Williamson
Nelva Lee
Cynthia Rucker
Shane Mobley (delayed)
Robert Cowles (delayed)
Tommy Hopkins

Members Absent

The Board of Community Health held its meeting via Zoom 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 March 14, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Comments

None to report.

Committee Reports

Anthony Williamson, Care Management Committee Chairman provided the following updates to the Board:

- Welcomed Stuart Portman, Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans, and noted he will assume the role of oversight for this committee.
- Presentations:
 - Kelvin Holloway, MD, Deputy Executive Director, Senior Medical Director: 2024 -2026 Quality Strategy Update
 - Maxine Elliott, Deputy Executive Director Service, Delivery & Administration: Advancing Mental Health Parity in Georgia: Comprehensive Approach
- Thanked Lynnette Rhodes, Chief Health Policy Officer for her work over the years with this committee.

Commissioner's Report

In Commissioner Carlson's absence, Joseph Hood, Chief Operating Officer thanked the Board, members of the public, and staff for their participation via Zoom.

The following updates were provided to the Board:

- Due to the end of the legislative session and the fiscal year, there will be an increased number of items for consideration at the May Board meeting.
- A successful session ended in March and the Department is moving forward with initiatives.
- We anticipate signing of the budget will occur in early May.
- Employees' years of service milestones.

Kim Morris, Director of Reimbursement presented to the Board for initial adoption the Nursing Home Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) Public Notice. Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) approval, DCH proposes to replace the current Resource Utilization Group (RUG)-based resident classification system with the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) classification system, effective July 1, 2024.

The total funds to implement this change is \$71,264,248, with \$24,308,235 in state funds.

On October 1, 2019, CMS replaced its RUG-based resident classification system with the PDPM classification system. States were given an option to choose the Optional State Assessment or transition directly to PDPM. Georgia decided to transition directly to PDPM, as this option would not create an administrative burden for the nursing homes.

Ms. Morris noted that PDPM has five acuity components: Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, and Non-Therapy Ancillary. The Department decided to use only the nursing component. The other four components were not used since they are reimbursed outside of the Medicaid nursing home per diem, and their primary payer source is Medicare Part B or fee schedule.

The Department, along with its contractor Myers and Stauffer, provided to the nursing homes two educational sessions and posted educational material on the DCH website. The Department also provided providers with quarterly shadow rates using the PDPM classification system to compare to their actual rates using the RUG-based classification system.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on April 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments are due on or before April 24, 2024.

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

Shane Mobley MADE a MOTION to approve the Nursing Home Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) Public Notice for initial adoption. Tommy Hopkins SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Nursing Home Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) Public Notice, is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Brian Dowd, Deputy Executive Director, Policy, Compliance and Operations, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) Rate Increase Public Notice.

Mr. Dowd explained that the GAPP program provides in-home skilled nursing, behavioral supports, and personal care support to medically fragile children. The proposed rate increase is for registered nurse in-home skilled nursing, licensed practical nurse in-home skilled nursing, and personal care support. The codes and increases by code are listed in the public notice. Additionally, the rates are consistent with recent rate studies completed by DCH for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers.

The increase in rates of reimbursement is funded in accordance with the 2024 Georgia Legislative Budget and is contingent upon the Governor's signature of the budget.

The proposed rate increase is estimated to increase expenditures for DCH in the amount of \$46,973,573 in total funds of which \$15,957,601 is state funds.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on April 18, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments are due on or before April 25, 2024.

Mr. Dowd respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of initial adoption.

Nelva Lee MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance Plans, Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) Rate Increase Public Notice presented to the Board for initial adoption. Robert Cowles SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

New Business/Closing Comments

Chairman Boyd provided notice to the Board that the May meeting will have at least 15 items for consideration.

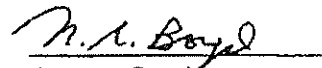
Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Norman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 11th DAY OF April, 2024.



Cynthia Rucker
Secretary



Norman Boyd
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Nursing Home Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) Public Notice
- #4 Medical Assistance Plans, Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) Rate Increase Public Notice