

Board of Community Health  
Meeting  
August 12, 2021

**Members Present**

Norman Boyd  
Roger Folsom (delayed)  
Mark Trail  
David Crews  
Russell Crutchfield  
Anthony Williamson

**Members Absent**

Russ Childers  
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 10:40 a.m. (technical delay).

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the June 10, 2021 and June 29, 2021 meetings were unanimously approved.

**Opening Comments**

None.

**Committee Update:**

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

- Committee purpose: Receive and share updates on care initiatives, help improve performance outcomes and provide a community voice.
- Meeting occurrences: quarterly.
- Peach State/WellCare integration/merger
- Quality strategy

**Commissioner's Report**

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

Commissioner Noggle provided the following updates to the Board:

- Publicly thanked the following individuals for their assistance and support during this transition:
  - Frank Berry
  - Executive leadership team (ELT) and other DCH leadership
- Meetings have taken place with Divisions and key external partners.
- Goals and upcoming initiatives:
  - Highlight great work performance.
  - Allow an opportunity for other leadership to present to the Board.
  - Evaluating the Strategic Plan, including adding an additional goal, establishing more structure around priorities, tracking and accountability.
  - Adding internal performance measures or key performance indicators (KPIs)
  - Renewed focus on how we optimize our internal operations

Lynnette Rhodes, Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for final adoption the Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Renewal and Rate Increase Public Notice.

Effective date of July 1, 2021; pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH proposes to renew the Independent Care Waiver program for an additional five years and to increase the reimbursement rates for all services provided in the Independent Care Waiver Program by ten (10) percent.

DCH is not proposing any changes to the service types, description of services, or maximum allowable units.

An opportunity for public comment was held on June 15, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. via WebEx. Written comments will be due on or before July 12, 2021. No comments were received.

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

Mark Trail MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption the Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Renewal and Rate Increase Public Notice. Roger Folsom SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Renewal and Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Melanie Simon, Executive Director, Healthcare Facility Regulation presented to the Board for final adoption the Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-62 Public Notice.

This change is necessary to comply with portions of House Bill 987, the "Disabled Adults and Elder Persons Protection Act of 2020," pertaining to staffing and memory care services.

An opportunity for public comment was held on July 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx. Written comments will be due on or before July 16, 2021. There were no oral comments. Five written comments were received.

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

Mark Trail MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption the Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-62 Public Notice. Russell Crutchfield SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-62 Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

Melanie Simon, Executive Director, Healthcare Facility Regulation presented to the Board for final adoption the Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-63 Public Notice.

This change is necessary to comply with portions of House Bill 987, the "Disabled Adults and Elder Persons Protection Act of 2020," pertaining to staffing and memory care services.

An opportunity for public comment was held on July 14, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. via WebEx. Written comments will be due on or before July 16, 2021. Three oral and nine written comments were received.

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

David Crews MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-63. Roger Folsom SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-63 is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #5).

Lynnette Rhodes, Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Increase Supplemental Quality Incentive Payments to Eligible Nursing Facilities Public Notice.

Effective date of August 13, 2021; pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH proposes utilizing calendar year 2020 data as the baseline. Nursing facilities that demonstrate improvement in at least one of four categories identified below will be eligible for a supplemental payment.

- (1) High-Risk Long Stay Residents with pressure ulcers
- (2) Long-stay residents who received an antianxiety or hypnotic medication
- (3) Long-stay residents who received an antipsychotic medication
- (4) Long-stay residents with a urinary tract infection

The supplemental payment will be based on the percentage of improvement ranked by decile for each of the four categories. Supplemental payments will be distributed to eligible nursing facilities twice per year. However, in year one (SFY2022), eligible nursing facilities will only receive one payment. For each subsequent year after calendar year 2020, the base year will be adjusted annually to reflect improvement against the prior year.

**Cost Impact:**

	State Cost	Federal Cost	Total Cost
SFY 2022	\$12,000,000	\$24,253,776	\$36,253,776

An opportunity for public comment will be held on August 19, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. via WebEx. Written comments will be due on or before August 26, 2021.

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

Mark Trail MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Increase Supplemental Quality Incentive Payments to Eligible Nursing Facilities Public Notice. David Crews SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Increase Supplemental Quality Incentive Payments to Eligible Nursing Facilities Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #6).

Lynnette Rhodes, Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Portable Radiography and Accredited Mobile Imaging Service Rate Methodology Change for Medicare Cross-Over Public Notice.

Effective date of August 13, 2021; pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH proposes the following rate change from a flat rate of \$109.77 per



trip to one hundred percent (100%) of the current Medicare reimbursement rate for the one hundred and thirteen (113) codes associated with mobile x-ray units and Medicare cross-over claims.

**Cost Impact:**

	State Cost	Federal Cost	Total Cost
SFY 2022	\$250,000	\$541,139	\$791,139

An opportunity for public comment will be held on August 18, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. via WebEx. Written comments will be due on or before August 25, 2021.

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

Russell Crutchfield MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Portable Radiography and Accredited Mobile Imaging Service Rate Methodology Change for Medicare Cross-Over Public Notice. Mark Trail SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Portable Radiography and Accredited Mobile Imaging Service Rate Methodology Change for Medicare Cross-Over Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #7).

Kim Morris, Director of Reimbursement, Financial Management presented to the Board for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice.

Effective date of August 13, 2021; pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH proposes to modify the average commercial rate calculation and frequency of data collection used in calculating the ambulance supplemental payment.

Ms. Morris stated that several rural ambulance providers could not provide three commercial payer rates for each of the required Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes. The Department could not compute an average commercial rate for specific HCPCS codes nor calculate a supplemental payment for those HCPCS codes. The State will modify the State Plan Amendment (SPA) to apply a median state rate for specific HCPCS codes when a provider cannot submit three commercial payer rates in lieu of computing an average commercial rate.

Ms. Morris also requested to modify the SPA language to allow ambulance providers to submit commercial rates every two years instead of twice a year.

**Questions from the Board:**

Board Member Mark Trail

Q1. Did the issue with the three payer sources relate to rural area?

Response: Yes

Q2. Is this covered by IGT?

Response: Yes, IGT.

**Cost Impact:**

State Cost (IGT)	Federal Cost	Total Cost
\$5,443	\$14,890	\$20,333

An opportunity for public comment will be held on August 17, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via WebEx. Written comments will be due on or before August 24, 2021.

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

Roger Folsom MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice. David Crews SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #8).

Kim Morris, Director of Reimbursement, Financial Management presented to the Board for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice.

Effective date of October 13, 2021; pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH proposes approval to remove the provision which prohibits a physician from receiving supplemental payments through the Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) program and the enhanced primary care reimbursement rates simultaneously. Removal of this provision will allow eligible physicians to participate in and receive both the UPL supplemental payment and the enhanced primary care rate increase.



**Cost Impact:**

	State Cost (IGT)	Federal Cost	Total Cost
SFY2022	\$21,374,572	\$43,593,733	\$64,968,305

An opportunity for public comment will be held on August 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx. Written comments will be due on or before August 25, 2021.

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

Mark Trail MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice. Roger Folsom SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #9).

Brandy Sylvan, Director of Government Relations provided a summary of the 2021 SHBP Advisory Council meeting. The meeting was held August 11, 2021, and SHBP Executive Director Louis Amis provided an overview of the 2022 SHBP plan recommendations that would be presented to the DCH Board. Council members only had two questions, regarding the plan options for next year and the proposed employer/employee cost share.

Louis Amis, Executive Director, State Health Benefit Plan presented to the Board the 2022 Benefit Plan Year recommendations:

- Commercial (Non-Medicare Advantage) member contributions for active members will remain flat for 2022.
- Medicare Advantage (MA) premiums for retirees will remain the same for the MA Standard Plan Options.
- Deductibles and co-pays will remain unchanged next year for members of the plan, as will the providers offering coverage.
- The 2022 Benefit Plan year will have the following Benefits Enhancements:
  - Bariatric Surgery will be a covered benefit in 2022
  - Expansion of the Diabetes Prevention Program
  - Wellness Program – Serenity Now will add two additional programs in 2022
    - Breathe (Relaxation and Meditation)
    - Eat Right Now (Manage and control food cravings)

Russell Crutchfield MADE a MOTION to approve the SHBP State Employees Plan Employer Contribution Rates, SHBP Teachers Plan Employer Contribution Rates and Public-School Employee Plan Employer Contribution Rates and SHBP Calendar Year 2022 Member Contribution Rates Resolutions. Roger Folsom SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the SHBP State Employees Plan Employer Contribution Rates, SHBP Teachers Plan Employer Contribution Rates and Public-School Employee Plan Employer Contribution Rates and SHBP Calendar Year 2022 Member Contribution Rates Resolutions is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #10).

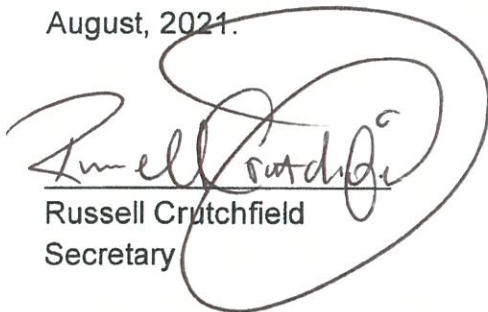
### **New Business/Closing Comments**

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Boyd thanked staff and first responders for their tireless work during this pandemic.


### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Norman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2021.



Russell Crutchfield  
Secretary



Norman Boyd  
Chairman

### **Official Attachments:**

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Renewal and Rate Increase Public Notice



- #4 Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-62 Public Notice
- #5 Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-8-63
- #6 Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Increase Supplemental Quality Incentive Payments to Eligible Nursing Facilities Public Notice
- #7 Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Portable Radiography and Accredited Mobile Imaging Service Rate Methodology Change for Medicare Cross-Over Public Notice
- #8 Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice
- #9 Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Public Notice
- #10 SHBP State Employees Plan Employer Contribution Rates, SHBP Teachers Plan Employer Contribution Rates and Public-School Employee Plan Employer Contribution Rates and SHBP Calendar Year 2022 Member Contribution Rates Resolutions