

Board of Community Health
Meeting
January 9, 2020

Members Present

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

Members Absent

The Board of Community Health held its regularly scheduled meeting at the Department of Community Health (DCH), 5th Floor Board Room, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia. (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 10:35 a.m.

Minutes

The Minutes of the December 12, 2019 and December 20, 2019 meetings were unanimously approved.

Opening Comments

None to report.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Berry thanked the Board, members of the public and staff for their attendance.

Commissioner Berry updated the Board on the following:

- General Assembly will begin on January 13 and we are looking forward to working with members and the Governor's office.

Lisa A. Walker, CFO presented to the Board for final adoption the Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program Public Notice.

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval and effective January 1, 2020, the Department proposes to implement a new Ambulance UPL supplemental payment program for ambulance providers that are affiliated with a hospital.

Participation in the program is voluntary and dependent upon the ambulance provider securing a commitment from a hospital authority to make an inter-governmental transfer (IGT) of funds to the Department to finance the state share of the ambulance UPL payment.

This is estimated to increase expenditures in state fiscal year (SFY) 2020 by \$33,018,829 total funds (\$10,797,157 state funds). The state funds portion of the Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) supplemental payment will be funded through an IGT of funds from the hospital authority to the Department.

An opportunity for public comment was held on December 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5th Floor Board Room. Written comments were accepted on or before December 26, 2019.

Two oral comments were received from Peter Quinones, Georgia Ambulance Providers Association (GAPA) and Brian Hudson, Priority Ambulance. One written comment was received from Conrad T. Kearns, Georgia Ambulance Providers Association (GAPA).

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

Mark Trail MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption the Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program Public Notice. Russell Crutchfield SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Lynnette Rhodes, Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for initial adoption the Lead Investigations Rate Increase Public Notice.

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval and effective January 1, 2020, the Department proposes to increase the reimbursement rates for the following services as follows:

- a. The rates for Initial Lead Investigations will increase from \$229.60 to \$964.00.

- b. The rates for Post Hazard Abatement will increase from \$197.34 to \$345.00.

The purpose of the initial lead investigation and the post hazard abatement service is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Georgia. Lead investigations are conducted under the purview of the Georgia Department of Public Health's (DPH) Environmental Health Team. Lead investigations are conducted when a child between the age of six months to age six has a confirmed elevated blood lead level. Upon completion of the initial lead investigation, post hazard abatement services are performed in order to remove and dispose of the hazardous substances. The post hazard abatement services also include clearance testing activities. Lead investigations may only be conducted at the member's primary place of residence and are limited to one (1) per member per lifetime. The current rates of \$229.60 and \$197.34 have been in place since 1994. The proposed rate increases consider enhancements in technology and changes in certification requirements.

Expenditures for Lead Investigation Services for SFY2020 are as follows:

Total Funds are \$22,052:

- State Funds represent \$7,668. DPH will provide the state match.
- Federal Funds represent \$14,384.

Expenditures for Lead Investigation Services for SFY2021 are as follows:

Total Funds are \$44,103:

- State Funds represent \$15,148. DPH will provide the state match.
- Federal Funds represent \$28,955.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on January 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5th Floor Board Room. Written comments will be accepted on or before January 23, 2020.

Allana Cummings MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption the Lead Investigation Rate Increase Public Notice. David Crews SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the Lead Investigations Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

Lynnette Rhodes, Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for initial adoption the Newborn Rate Increase Public Notice.

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval and effective January 1, 2020, the Department proposed to increase the reimbursement rates for Newborn Screening from \$63 to \$80.40.

Georgia's rules and regulations require that all newborn babies in Georgia be tested for certain conditions that pose a threat of severe illness, physical or developmental disability, or death. Testing is mandatory unless the family objects based on religious beliefs. Testing is performed by approved laboratories licensed in Georgia within 24 hours after birth. The additional reimbursement will cover testing for four (4) additional disorders that were approved by the Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.

Expenditures for Newborn Screening Fees for SFY20 are as follows:

Total Funds are \$1,145,216:

- State Funds represent: \$373,467.
- Federal Funds represent \$771,749.

Expenditures for Newborn Screening Fees for SFY21 are as follows:

Total Funds are \$1,107,997:

- State Funds represent \$361,331.
- Federal Funds represent \$746,666.

A question was presented regarding the reason for the decreased expenditures for SFY21. The Board was informed that additional research would be performed and a formal response would be provided.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on January 16, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5th Floor Board Room. Written comments will be accepted on or before January 23, 2020.

Russ Childers MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption the Newborn Rate Increase Public Notice. Russell Crutchfield SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the Newborn Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #5).

Marisol R. Owens, Third Party Liability Director presented to the Board for initial adoption the Rules and Regulations for Estate Recovery, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8.

Official Code Georgia Annotated for State's authority, O.C.G.A. §49-4-147.1 (d) updated language: "To prevent substantial and unreasonable hardship, the commissioner shall

waive any claim against the first \$25,000.00 of any estate" and referenced Senate Bill 370."

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approved the State Plan on August 23, 2018. Families, executors and personal representatives of the Estates have received the credit of the waiver of the initial \$25,000.00 since July 1, 2018.

Updates: 1) Authority of the Commissioner to waive the first \$25,000 of any estate; 2) clarification and correction to reflect process improvements and 3) updates to language permitting the Department to maintain compliance with federal and state regulations.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on February 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5th Floor Board Room. Written comments will be accepted on or before February 14, 2020.

David Crews MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption the Rules and Regulations for Estate Recovery, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8. Mark Trail SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Estate Recovery, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8 is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #6).

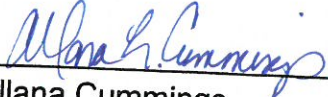
New Business/Closing Comments

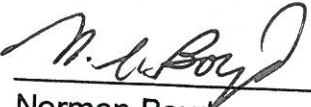
None to report.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Norman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 9th DAY OF January , 2020.


Allana Cummings
Secretary


Norman Boyd
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program
- #4 Lead Investigations Rate Increase Public Notice
- #5 Newborn Rate Increase Public Notice
- #6 Rules and Regulations for Estate Recovery, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8