

Board of Community Health
Meeting
July 9, 2020

Members Present

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

Members Absent

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

June 11, 2020.

Opening Comments

None to report.

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:

- Governor Brian Kemp's statewide "Wear a Mask" tour
- Continuing to work with the Governor's office and the Department of Public Health (DPH), reviewing COVID-19 data and participating in daily calls.
- Recognized and thanked the following individuals for their work during the legislative session:
 - Brandy Sylvan
 - Joe Hood
 - Melanie Simon

Kim Morris, Director, Reimbursement Financial Management presented to the Board for final adoption the Medicaid Care Management Organizations (CMOs) Direct Payments to Physician Faculty Groups affiliated with Teaching Hospitals Public Notice.

This preprint will allow DCH to provide supplemental payments to physician faculty groups affiliated with teaching hospitals that provide care to Georgia's Medicaid Managed Care members.

The program is similar to the current fee-for-service (FFS) Physician Upper Payment Limit (UPL) payments. Providers participating in Primary Care Physician (PCP) add-on payments are not eligible for the direct payment.

The purpose of the supplemental payments is to increase training opportunities for medical students and interns, to improve access to providers in underserved areas of the state, and increase access to specialty providers.

- Referenced list of eligible teaching hospitals and mid-level providers.
- Program is voluntary and additional teaching hospitals may be added.
- State portion of the funding is through inter-governmental transfers (IGTs) from hospital authorities or governmental entities.
- Program Cost Federal: \$51,459,469 State, IGT \$25,003,338, Total \$76,462,807.
- Direct Payments are a calculation of provider specific Average Commercial Rate (ACR) minus provider specific Medicaid CMO payments.
- Direct payments will be made to CMOs and the CMOs are required to pay 100% of the direct payments to the eligible physician groups.

An opportunity for public comment was held on June 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., via WebEx. Written comments were accepted on or before June 23, 2020. No oral comments were received. Eight written comments were received.

- Jonathan S Lewin, MD, FACR, Emory University
- A James Budzinski, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Wellstar
- Brian Church, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Phoebe Putney Health System
- Robert C. Cross, Vice President of Government Reimbursement, Piedmont Healthcare, Inc.
- Earl V. Rogers, President and CEO, Georgia Hospital Association
- Bryce Gartland, MD, Hospital Group President and Co-Chief of Clinical Operations, Emory Healthcare
- Matthew Hicks, Chief Policy Officer, Grady Health System
- Katrina Keefer, CEO, Augusta University Health System

1. Recommended the DCH Board approve the Medicaid Care Management Organizations (CMOs) Direct Payments to Physician Faculty Groups affiliated with Teaching Hospitals supplemental payments. (8 comments)
2. The public notice stated participating physician groups will receive increased Medicaid funding via an annual lump sum direct payment. Comments received requested DCH to consider interim payments thereby allowing providers to realize the program benefit sooner than 24 months. (3 comments)

DCH Response: It is not DCH's intention for providers to wait 24 months to receive increased Medicaid funding. DCH will implement semi-annual interim payments.

3. Comments requested DCH remove the restriction of providers participating in both Primary Care Physician (PCP) enhancement rate and CMO physician direct payment program. (2 comments)

DCH Response: DCH will remove the restriction and allow providers who receive the PCP enhancement the right to participate in the CMO physician direct payment program.

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

Mark Trail MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption the Medicaid Care Management Organizations (CMOs) Direct Payments to Physician Faculty Groups affiliated with Teaching Hospitals Public Notice. Roger Folsom SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

Note: Board member Kenneth Davis was present. Due to technical issues, his mic was muted, and his yea vote was not officially on the record.

(A copy of the Medicaid Care Management Organizations (CMOs) Direct Payments to Physician Faculty Groups affiliated with Teaching Hospitals Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Brandy Sylvan, Director, Government Relations provided an update to the Board on legislation passed in the 2020 legislative session that will require action by the Department. Bills reviewed include:

- HB 888 – surprise billing
- HB 946/SB 313 – PBM regulation
- HB 987 – Long-term care facility regulation updates
- HB 991 – healthcare accountability oversight committee
- HB 1114 – postpartum Medicaid extension
- HB 1125 – SHBP coverage of breast cancer screenings for high risk patients
- SB 482 – all payer claims database

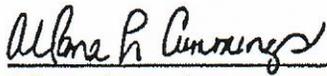
New Business/Closing Comments

None to report.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Norman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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



Allana Cummings
Secretary



Norman Boyd
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Medicaid Care Management Organizations (CMOs) Direct Payments to Physician Faculty Groups affiliated with Teaching Hospitals Public Notice