

Board of Community Health
Meeting
April 13, 2023

Members Present

Norman Boyd
Roger Folsom
Russell Crutchfield
David Crews
Anthony Williamson
Nelva Lee
Cynthia Rucker
Shane Mobley (delayed)

Members Absent

Robert Cowles

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 9, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Comments

None to report.

Commissioner's Report

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

The following updates were provided to the Board:

Commissioner Noggle thanked human resources, facilities, Georgia Building Authority (GBA) and support team for their assistance during our office relocation.

- Session adjourned approximately two weeks ago.
 - Current stage: Governor's bill review period. Several pending bills will impact the Department directly or tangentially.
 - The amended budget was signed by the Governor. It included a total of a \$225.6 million decrease for the Department, largely due to continued federal cost sharing or Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) changes resulting from ongoing enhanced funding from the feds as we

- transition to the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and Medicaid unwinding for FY24.
 - The \$295.5 million increase to the Department's budget is mostly due to FMAP adjustments and utilization.
 - \$1 billion for the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP); increased employer contributions in the teacher, and both certified and non-certified school personnel parts of our plan.
 - We will have significant budget items for consideration in the amended 2024 and 2025. There were several unfunded items that the Department will be instructed to undertake without additional funding.
- We will begin work on our year-end closeout numbers and projections for next year.
- The continuous enrollment or Medicaid unwinding officially began on April 1st.
 - Commissioner Noggle thanked Executive Director of Medical Assistance Plans, Lynnette Rhodes, and our partnership with Melody Debussey from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to work on redetermining eligibility for 2.7 million members over the next 12 months, which will start in batches.
 - They'll attempt to redetermine their eligibility on what's called an exparte basis, using known data sources to redetermine a member's eligibility without having to obtain new documentation from the member.
 - For those in which we are unable to utilize the process successfully or there's insufficient information, those members will start receiving notices on April 15 and will have approximately a 45-day process for their eligibility redetermination.
 - The Department is actively connecting our Care Management Organizations (CMOs) with high-volume providers, and physically placing individuals in hospitals to capture updated information for Medicaid members coming in for services.
- We have several procurements in progress, and we will continue to provide updates.
- Recognition for employee's years of service milestones.

Brian Dowd, Deputy Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for final adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver Program Rate Increase Public Notice.

Effective July 1, 2023, pending Board and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH is proposing to make permanent an initial 5% increase and additional 2% increase enacted in response to the Public Health Emergency (PHE).

DCH in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) enacted two temporary rate increases during the PHE utilizing Appendix K authority. The waiver amendment seeks to make permanent the temporary rate increase afforded by Appendix K. The State match funding for the increases was legislatively allocated to DBHDD to cover the cost. The rate increase was for all services within the waiver.

The proposed reimbursement rate change is estimated to increase expenditures.

Fiscal Impact	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2024	\$18,145,635	\$35,255,291	\$53,400,926
SFY 2025	\$18,612,205	\$36,161,793	\$54,773,998
SFY 2026	\$19,090,017	\$37,090,139	\$56,180,156

An opportunity for public comment was held on February 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments were due on or before March 13, 2023. No oral or written comments were received.

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

Russel Crutchfield MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance Plans, Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver Program Rate Increase Public Notice. Nelva Lee SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver Program Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Sonja Allen-Smith, Inspector General presented to the Board for initial adoption the Georgia Caregiver Registry, Appeals of Ineligibility Determinations, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., r. 111-8-13-.05.

This is an amendment to an existing rule - 111-8-13-.05 regarding an applicant's or employee's right to appeal a determination of ineligibility made by the Department related to the Caregivers Registry. The Georgia Caregiver Registry enables employers to determine employment eligibility of persons who are family members or guardians or employees who are providing personal care services to the employer's family members or wards. The amendment updates and makes reference to the Department's new mailing address. Additionally, this update makes reference to an online administrative form that the applicant or employee may utilize to file an appeal.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on May 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments will be due on or before May 17, 2023.

Ms. Allen-Smith respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of initial adoption.

Roger Folsom MADE a MOTION to approve the Georgia Caregiver Registry, Appeals of Ineligibility Determinations, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., r. 111-8-13-.05. Shane Mobley SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Georgia Caregiver Registry, Appeals of Ineligibility Determinations, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., r. 111-8-13-.05 is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

Sonja Allen-Smith, Inspector General presented to the Board for initial adoption the Medical Assistance, Recovery of Assistance; Probate, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8-.05.

This is an amendment to an existing rule - 111-3-8-.05- regarding the Department's estate recovery efforts which are required by federal law. The amendment updates and makes reference to the Department's new mailing address for personal representatives to make written notification at least thirty (30) days before disbursing assets of a Medicaid Member. The amendment also provides for a Departmental email address through which personal representatives may provide the Department written notice.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on May 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments will be due on or before May 24, 2023.

Ms. Allen-Smith respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of initial adoption.

Cynthia Rucker MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance, Recovery of Assistance; Probate, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8-.05. David Crews SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance, Recovery of Assistance; Probate, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8-.05 is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #5).

New Business/Closing Comments

- Chairman Norman Boyd thanked the Department for providing the Board documents in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Norman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 13th DAY OF April, 2023.

Cynthia Rucker

Cynthia Rucker
Secretary

N. Boyd

Norman Boyd
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Medical Assistance Plans, Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver Program Rate Increase Public Notice
- #4 Georgia Caregiver Registry, Appeals of Ineligibility Determinations, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., r. 111-8-13-.05
- #5 Medical Assistance, Recovery of Assistance; Probate, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8-.05