

Board of Community Health
Meeting
June 8, 2023

Members Present

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

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 May 11, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Comments

None to report.

Committee Reports

David Crews, Audit Committee Chairman provided the following updates to the Board for the May 11, 2023 meeting:

- Sonya Allen-Smith's presentation included a summary of audit findings (3 new and 8 repeat), and the department's estimated completion date to address these findings.

Anthony Williamson, Care Management Committee Chairman provided the following updates to the Board for the June 8, 2023 meeting:

- Discussed the continuous enrollment period ending, and the various work being done to re-enroll Medicaid recipients.
 - 14-month process, with a completion goal approximately a year from now.
 - Education is being provided to our providers on what they need to do during this period.

- Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended on May 11, 2023.

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:

- We anticipate within the next couple months our Board room AV functions will be complete. At that time, we look forward to welcoming back any Board members that would like to attend in-person and re-open our meetings to the public for in-person attendance. We anticipate keeping both virtual and in-person options available going forward.
- Recognition of our team members and John Hallman, Deputy Commissioner, DHS, Family Independence for their hard work with the Medicaid continuous enrollment and unwinding efforts.
- 1115 Medicaid waiver or Georgia Pathways to Coverage is on track with implementation beginning in early July.
- Winding down financials and preparing for FY24. Terry Conrad and his accounting/finance team are working diligently under Joe Hood's leadership.
- COVID-19 public notices that do not require Board approval:
 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is requesting that states reaffirm our commitment to continue providing treatments, testing and vaccination for COVID-19 for one year beyond the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) at the Federal level, which ended in May. The Department will post the notices and allow an opportunity for public comment.
- Recognition for employees' years of service milestones.

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

This rule is being amended to update the mailing address for appeals and references an on-line administrative form through which the applicant or employee may request an appeal.

The purpose of the Georgia Caregiver Registry is to allow private families who are relatives or guardians of elderly persons to obtain an employment eligibility determination from DCH for current or prospective employees. These applicants or employees usually provide personal care services to the employer's family members or wards.

An opportunity for public comment was held on May 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments were due on or before May 17, 2023. No oral or written comments were received.

Ms. Allen-Smith respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of final 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. Cynthia Rucker 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 #3).

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

The Estate Recovery Rule (111-3-8-.05) is being amended to update the department's mailing address for personal representatives to make written notification before disbursing assets of a Medicaid Member. This amendment also adds a department email address through which personal representatives may provide the department with written notice. In Georgia, certain individuals who were receiving Medicaid benefits for nursing home or community-based services at the time of their death are subject to the Estate Recovery rule. Estate Recovery is a part of the Medicaid program requirement.

An opportunity for public comment was held on May 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments were due on or before May 24, 2023. No oral or written comments were received.

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

Shane Mobley MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance, Recovery Assistance; Probate, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8-.05. Russell Crutchfield 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 Assistance; Probate, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8-.05 is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

Brian Dowd, Deputy Executive Director, Policy, Compliance and Operations, Medical

Assistance Plans presented to the Board for initial adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP) and Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Amendment-Rate Increase Public Notice.

Effective August 11, 2023, pending DCH Board and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH proposed to increase provider reimbursement rates for all services within the EDWP and ICWP by one half of one percent or .5%.

In the 2022 legislative session DCH received funding to cover the cost associated with fingerprinting requirements for provider enrollment specific to the EDWP and ICWP. At the time of the 2022 legislative session both waivers were pending with CMS for renewal.

Home and Community Based Waivers must be renewed every five years. Both the EDWP and ICWP are now renewed for another five years which allows DCH to move forward with these proposed amendments.

The proposed reimbursement rate change is estimated to increase expenditures as reported:

Fiscal Impact	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2024	\$1,297,039	\$2,520,026	\$3,817,065

An opportunity for public comment will be held on June 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Written comments are due on or before July 10, 2023.

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

Nelva Lee MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance Plans, Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP) and Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Amendment-Rate Increase Public Notice. 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 Medical Assistance Plans, Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP) and Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Amendment-Rate Increase Public Notice 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: Coverage of Blood Pressure Monitors Public Notice.

Currently, the Medicaid program does not cover blood pressure monitors. Per the provisions of the amended State Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act (House Bill 18), the

Department was directed to revise its rules and/or policies to allow for coverage of blood pressure monitors for all Medicaid members.

Effective July 1, 2023, pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department is seeking to amend its state plan, policies, and procedures to allow for coverage of blood pressure monitors.

Cost Impact:

Fiscal Impact	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2024	\$2,658,045	\$5,141,955	\$7,800,000

An opportunity for public comment will be held on June 14, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments are due on or before June 21, 2023.

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

David Crews MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Coverage of Blood Pressure Monitors Public Notice. Cynthia Rucker 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, State Plan Amendment: Coverage of Blood Pressure Monitors Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #6).

Lynnette R. Rhodes, Executive Director of the Medical Assistance Plans Division, informed the Board of the following three items for their awareness only. No action was required from the Board.

1. Expansion of Express Lane Eligibility:

Per the provisions of the amended State Fiscal year 2023 Appropriations Act (House Bill 18), DCH was directed to submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand Express Lane Eligibility to include Childcare and Parental Services (CAPS), Refugee Cash Assistance, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). DCH is drafting the SPA and working to identify all Gateway and Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS) system changes. Updates will be provided to the Board in future meetings.

2. Coverage of Routine Physical Exams and Preventative Care in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs):

Per the provisions of the amended State Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act (House Bill 18), the Department was directed to change any rules, regulations, or policies necessary to allow Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) to provide routine physical exams and preventative care for all Medicaid members. DCH acknowledged the directive and noted that routine physical exams and preventative care are currently covered services that are provided in FQHCs and RHCs. Thus, no further action is required by DCH.

3. Coverage of Psychiatric Facility Services for Persons Under the Age of 21 Enrolled in Fee-for-Service:

Per the provisions of the amended State Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act (House Bill 18), the Department was directed to change any rules, regulations, or policies necessary to include psychiatric hospitals as an eligible facility type to provide inpatient psychiatric facility services for persons under the age of 21 years enrolled in Fee for-Service Medicaid. DCH acknowledged the directive and noted that DCH currently enrolls psychiatric inpatient facilities and provides inpatient psychiatric facility services to persons under the age of 21 enrolled in Fee-for-Service Medicaid. Thus, no further action is required by DCH.

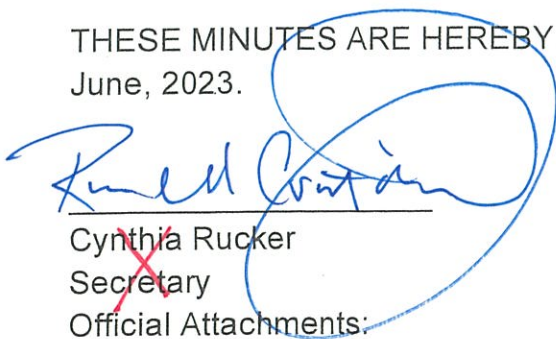
New Business/Closing Comments

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

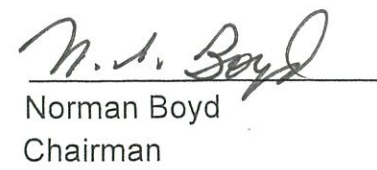
Adjournment

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

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 8th DAY OF June, 2023.



Cynthia Rucker
Secretary
Official Attachments:



Norman Boyd
Chairman

#1 Agenda

#2 List of Attendees

- #3 Georgia Caregiver Registry, Appeals of Ineligibility Determinations, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., r. 111-8-13-.05
- #4 Medical Assistance, Recovery Assistance; Probate, Ga. Comp. Rules & Regs., R. 111-3-8-.05
- #5 Medical Assistance Plans, Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP) and Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Amendment-Rate Increase Public Notice
- #6 Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment: Coverage of Blood Pressure Monitors Public Notice