

Board of Community Health
Meeting
May 8, 2014

Members Present

Norman Boyd
Donna Moses
Clay Cox
Allana Cummings
Jamie Pennington
Rick Jackson
Bill Wallace

Members Absent

Kiera von Besser
Jack Chapman

The Board of Community Health held its regularly scheduled meeting at the Department of Community Health, Fifth Floor Board Room, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia. Commissioner Clyde L. Reese, III was also present. (An agenda and a List of Attendees are attached hereto and made official parts of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2). Chairman Norm Boyd presided and called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

Minutes

The Minutes of the April 10, 2014 and April 29, 2014 special called teleconference meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Comments

None to report

Committee Reports

Bill Wallace, Policy Committee Chairman informed the Board that the committee was honored to have guest speaker Sherry Tucker, Executive Director of Georgia Board for Physician Workforce. Ms. Tucker provided data regarding Georgia physician assisted work force data, issues with availability and where they are located throughout the state and their area of specialty as well as areas where there is proper coverage and areas that are underserved. Ms. Tucker also shared data with respect to where Georgia is ranked nationally with regards to physicians and physician assistants.

Mr. Wallace thanked all the meeting attendees and wished those in attendance as well as the general public a Happy Mother's Day. Mr. Wallace also acknowledged Nurse Appreciation week and thanked them for their services.

Chairman Boyd noted the subject matter that Mr. Wallace discussed is a continuation of the Policy Committee's emphasis on the rural health issues in Georgia. The special teleconference meeting held on April 29, 2014 addressed this issue and it continues to be a primary initiative of the Policy Committee and the Board.

Commissioner's Report

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

Commissioner Reese expressed to the Board that the Department of Community Health (DCH) has been working on the Integrated Eligibility System to coordinate and facilitate with the federal marketplace. The original kickoff date of January 1, 2014 did not launch due to numerous technical difficulties with the federal website. One portion of the eligibility piece was to be able to receive electronic files from the site and be able to transmit individuals who have applied for Medicaid or other insurance in Georgia and vice versa at the federal site. The Department of Community Health (DCH) has not adequately been able to complete this assignment, so the decision has been made to not accept 'flat files' through that transmission. The Department of Community Health (DCH) has recently been able to rectify those problems with CMS and the federal government; account transfers are now being received and receiving the two-way communication. There has been a backlog of applications submitted at the Federal Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) and they are now being processed to determine Medicaid eligibility.

Commissioner Reese also informed the Board that the Department of Community Health (DCH) is working on selecting one statewide vendor who will help with enhanced case management care coordination for our most expensive Medicaid population, which are the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD). The vendor submissions have been received and they are currently under review and discussions about selections will prevail within the coming months, but the review is on-going.

Commissioner Reese thanked the Board for their participation and support in two Special Called Teleconference meetings that were conducted to facilitate the adoption of a rule in our licensure regulations to create a category for rural free standing emergency departments. This was one of the three initiatives that the Governor undertook to begin to address the issue of access to healthcare in rural areas. The rule has been transmitted to the Secretary of State Office and will be effective on May 19,

2014. At that point, we will be able to receive applications from hospitals that make the decision to close or those that have been closed within the past 12 months may downgrade to a lesser level of service. This is an important first step of addressing rural healthcare to offer this alternative where one has not previously existed.

Commissioner Reese stated that a couple of weeks ago the Governor named the Rural Hospitals Stabilization Committee members. Preparations for the first meeting are underway and will take place at the Department of Community Health, fifth floor Board room. Commissioner Reese mentioned that Charles Owens, Director of the State Office of Rural Health, Chairman Terry England and Senator David Lucas are committee members. Commissioner Reese further stated that future meetings will be held in rural communities around the state.

Commissioner Reese informed the Board that the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) began accepting proposals for a second third party administrator in addition to Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) for the 2015 plan year. There will also be a fully insured HMO product plan option for those living in the metropolitan area. The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2014 and the reviewing process will begin the week of May 19th with a five to six week review process. A decision will be made on July 1, 2014.

Commissioner Reese was pleased to announce that the Governor issued an Executive Order that a teacher would be included on the review panel for the proposals submitted to The Department of Community Health (DCH). Jamelleh Coes, teacher of the year from Statesboro Georgia has been designated as a panel member. Ms. Coes's participation as a teacher and an active plan member will be a welcomed perspective.

Commissioner Reese informed the Board that nationally this is Public Employee Recognition Week. The Department of Community Health (DCH) and throughout the state is recognizing Employee Appreciation Week as well. Various activities have been conducted this week to honor and recognize our employees. Commissioner Reese asked all DCH employees in attendance to stand and be publically recognized. Commissioner Reese reminded the employees that their jobs performed are very difficult, everything that we do impacts the entire state and at the Department of Community Health (DCH) we touch about one in four residents in the state of Georgia. Commissioner Reese further stated that our employees work extremely hard and bring value to the work done on a daily basis.

Chairman Boyd wanted to express on behalf of the Board, their appreciation for the Department of Community Health (DCH) employee's professionalism and the job done by everyone.

Tanja Battle, Executive Director for the Board of Dentistry and the State Board of Pharmacy presented, via PowerPoint, information regarding both Boards. Ms. Battle

discussed the transition from the Secretary of State's Office to the Department of Community Health (DCH) and the challenges each had to overcome to make the transition a success. Additionally, Ms. Battle recognized her staff in attendance that helped facilitate the move. Ms. Battle also shared statistics regarding applications, active licenses, and complaints. Ms. Battle further provided information regarding the investigative process for each Board and possible sanctions to practitioners. Ms. Battle closed with information on the Boards' upcoming projects. (A copy of Georgia Boards of Dentistry and Pharmacy PowerPoint presentation is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

John Upchurch, Director of Reimbursement, presented Nursing Facility Services payment rates proposed action for the Board's initial adoption. Mr. Upchurch advised the Board that the rate update was included in the SFY2015 Appropriations Act. With this update, 2012 nursing facility cost reports will be used to determine a facility's allowable cost. The Department of Community Health (DCH) currently uses 2010 nursing facility cost reports to determine allowable cost. Additionally, the Department of Community Health (DCH) will use the 2012 RSMeans cost per square foot value to determine the fair rental value component of nursing facility rates. The 2010 RSMeans cost per square foot value is currently being used. This rate update, subject to CMS approval, is to be effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2014. The public comment period under the notice will expire on May 20, 2014.

Clay Cox MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption Nursing Homes Services Rate Increase Public Notice. Donna Moses SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of Nursing Homes Services Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

New Business

None to report

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 8th DAY OF May, 2014.

William H. Wallace, Jr.

Jamie Pennington
Secretary

VICE CHAIR
FOR: MS. JAMIE PENNINGTON,
SECRETARY

N. L. Boyd

Norm Boyd
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 List of Attendees
- #2 Agenda
- #3 Georgia Boards of Dentistry and Pharmacy PowerPoint Presentation
- #4 Nursing Homes Services Rate Increase Public Notice Change Public Notice