

Board of Community Health  
Meeting  
August 14, 2014

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

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 10:31 a.m.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the July, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved after amending the rescinding waiver action vote to reflect 7 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

**Opening Comments**

None to report.

**Committee Reports**

Bill Wallace, Policy Committee Chairman indicated the Policy Committee was pleased to have presenter, J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Director of Health Protection, Department of Public Health. Dr. O'Neal shared with the Committee information concerning the following public health issues in the state of Georgia:

1. Ebola Virus
2. Advances in treatment for HIV patients

Mr. Wallace thanked Dr. O'Neal for his participation and information he shared.

## Commissioner's Report

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

Commissioner Reese updated the Board on the following items:

1. There will be a second Board meeting held on August 28, 2014 at 10:30 am to present the AFY2015 and FY2016 budgets. If approved by the Board, it will then go to the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) to be incorporated into the Governor's larger budget, which will be presented in the fall. Finally, the Governor's budget will go to the General Assembly in 2015.
2. The Care Coordination project was implemented for a single statewide vendor to help address the high cost for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) population. The Department of Community Health (DCH) received proposals for a vendor to institute enhanced case management care coordination. The proposals received did not reflect the targeted cost savings, so DCH opted to rescind and look at other processes before asking for new proposals.

DCH is working with:

- a. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at the federal level to determine that the cost saving provisions in the proposal are acceptable.
  - b. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to make sure all requirements are in order for a proper procurement.
3. Leadership personnel changes:
    - a. Rob Finlayson, Inspector General worked with the agency for many years left to take a great job opportunity in the private sector in Austin, Texas. Commissioner Reese expressed that Rob Finlayson is very innovative and aggressive in the area of Program Integrity and did a tremendous job. His work was recognized throughout the country which led to his new job opportunity. Commissioner Reese wished him the best of luck and thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Reese announced that he has appointed Donald Pollard, current Deputy General Counsel at DCH to be the new Inspector General, effective August 18, 2014. Donald Pollard is a resilient lawyer who will bring temperament and focus on DCH's efforts in the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to help move forward in the area of distinguishing the difference between fraud and mistake. Commissioner Reese publically introduced and thanked Donald Pollard for taking this challenge and expressed that DCH is looking forward to working with him.

- b. The current Director of Medicaid Legal Services, Tara Dickerson will be promoted to the role of Deputy General Counsel to work with Marial Ellis, General Counsel, creating an opportunity to utilize her vast legal experience.
- c. Effective September 1, 2014, Russell Crutchfield, current Deputy Chief of Staff at the Department of Public Health (DPH) will assume the role as DCH's Chief of the Health Information Technology (HIT) Department. This entity of the agency is responsible for helping build an info structure of electronic health records and Health Information Exchange (HIE). In Georgia we have transitioned to a 501c3 also referred to as the Georgia Health Information Network (GHIN). Mr. Crutchfield brings a background of heavy involvement in DPH's work in integrating information into the Exchange. Commissioner Reese thanked Stacey Harris who served as Interim Chief of HIT for her work and her continued work with Mr. Crutchfield.

Commissioner Reese mentioned that Georgia is one of the few states that has successfully built such an HIE and transitioned it to a private entity to work with all of our providers and practices to create this network to benefit everyone involved.

- 4. The State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) Design and Rates for the 2015 plan year will be presented. Over the past year the Department has been recalibrating our approach to SHBP; looking at what was learned in 2014 as well as what needs to be done going forward. The Department has listened to the members, public and provider community in reference to decisions made to offer multiple vendors and multiple options which are positive important steps made resulting in a plan that we can be proud of for the upcoming Plan year.

Dr. Jerry Dubberly presented an action for the Board's initial consideration related to changes to the Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP). This Board action calls for a 6.67% rate increase for Personal Support Service Levels 1, 2, and 3 effective upon CMS approval. The funding source for this increase utilizes enhanced federal funds available through the Balancing Incentives Payment Program through the third quarter of SFY2016. Starting in the fourth quarter in SFY2016 and thereafter, the increase is funding through funds allocated to DCH through the General Assembly. The Board's favorable consideration was requested.

A question was asked by Mr. Bill Wallace regarding the effective date of the increase. Dr. Jerry Dubberly explained that due to new CMS rules promulgated in the first quarter of CY21014, the rate increase could not be effective prior to the date of CMS approval of the waiver amendment. Dr. Donna Moses asked if the public notice increased the 5% rate increase previously proposed to the Board to 6.67%. Dr. Jerry Dubberly affirmed that is the case. The higher rate is proposed in an attempt to distribute the

same or similar amount of total dollars to providers in SFY2015 as what was included in the budget approved by the General Assembly.

Kiera von Besser MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Rate Increase Public Notice. Jamie Pennington SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Dr. Jerry Dubberly presented a public notice for initial adoption of changes to the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP). This action consisted of three changes effective for dates of service effective upon CMS approval. First, a 2% rate increase for the following services was proposed: Community Access Services; Prevocational Services; Supported Employment; Community Residential Alternative Services; Community Living Supports; and Support Coordination. The second component of the public notice called for the addition of a new service, Behavioral Supports Services and Intensive Support Coordination. The proposed reimbursement of Behavioral Supports Services is \$18.75 per 15 minute unit. The proposed reimbursement of Intensive Support coordination is \$461.00 per member per month. The third component of the public notice was an unbundling of skilled nursing services from its current bundled rate. Skilled nursing services will be billed under the established nursing services rate that already exists in the waiver with reimbursement at \$10 per 15 minutes when rendered by a Registered Nurse and \$8.75 per 15 minutes when rendered by a Licensed Practical Nurse. The unbundling is being proposed to give greater flexibility in the setting in which the service is rendered. Dr. Jerry Dubberly advised that the funding source for these changes is the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) budget and the use of Balancing Incentive Payment Program funds. No DCH funds are required for this change. The Board's favorable consideration was requested.

Bill Wallace MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Rate Increase Public Notice. Kiera von Besser SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

Dr. Jerry Dubberly presented a public notice for initial adoption of changes to the New Options Waiver (NOW) Program. This action consisted of three changes effective for dates of service effective upon CMS approval. First, a 2% rate increase for the following services was proposed: Community Access Services; Prevocational Services;

Supported Employment; Community Living Supports; and Support Coordination. The second component of the public notice called for the addition of a new service, Behavioral Supports Services and Intensive Support Coordination. The proposed reimbursement of Behavioral Supports Services is \$18.75 per 15 minute unit. The proposed reimbursement of Intensive Support coordination is \$461.00 per member per month. The third component of the public notice was an unbundling of skilled nursing services from its current bundled rate. Skilled nursing services will be billed under the established nursing services rate that already exists in the waiver with reimbursement at \$10 per 15 minutes when rendered by a Registered Nurse and \$8.75 per 15 minutes when rendered by a Licensed Practical Nurse. The unbundling is being proposed to give greater flexibility in the setting in which the service is rendered. Dr. Jerry Dubberly advised that the funding source for these changes is the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) budget and the use of Balancing Incentive Payment Program funds. No DCH funds are required for this change. The Board's favorable consideration was requested.

Jamie Pennington MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption New Options Waiver Program (NOW) Rate Increase and New Services Public Notice. Donna Moses SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of New Options Waiver Program (NOW) Rate Increase and New Services Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #5).

Dr. Jerry Dubberly presented a final item for the Board's initial adoption related to changes to the Elderly and Disabled (E&D) Waiver Program. The first component of this item calls for a 6.67% rate increase in certain services: Enhanced Case Management; Personal Support Services; Personal Support Services Extended; and Alternate Living Services. The effective date for this change will be upon CMS approval. The funding source for this increase utilizes enhanced federal funds available through the Balancing Incentives Payment Program through the third quarter of SFY2016. Starting in the fourth quarter in SFY2016 and thereafter, the increase is funding through funds allocated to DCH through the General Assembly.

The second component of the E&D Waiver changes includes the establishment of a provider quality incentive payment program for enhanced case management services. This incentive allows an additional 1 to 3 percent increase to be earned by the provider based upon three domains – improvements to baseline quality measures; program measures; and consumer measures. The effective date for this change will be upon CMS approval. The quality incentive funding source is funds made available through the Georgia General Assembly. The Board's favorable consideration was requested.

Donna Moses MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption Elderly and Disabled Waiver (E&D) Rate Increase and Quality Incentive Program Public Notice. Jamie Pennington SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of Elderly and Disabled Waiver (E&D) Rate Increase and Quality Incentive Program Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #6).

John Upchurch, Director of Reimbursement, briefed the Board on the request for approval of a public notice period for an update to Nursing Facility Services payment rates. Mr. Upchurch advised the Board that the rate update was included in the SFY2015 Appropriations Act. With this update, nursing facilities that had a change of ownership during the period January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014 will receive an adjustment to their Medicaid Reimbursement effective July 1, 2014 based on the facility's cost under the new owner. This rate update, subject to CMS approval and the availability of funds, is to be effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2014. The public comment period under the notice will expire on August 29, 2014.

Jamie Pennington MADE a MOTION to approve for initial adoption Nursing Homes Services Rate Increase Public Notice Change Public Notice. Allana Cummings SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 6, nays 2, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of Nursing Homes Services Rate Increase Public Notice Change Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #7).

The Board had a number of questions and concerns as to the reason the General Assembly included this rate update in the SFY2015 budget. Two of the Board members voting in the affirmative expressed reservations with the action and indicated a possible "no vote" when the public notice period is finalized if they have the same reservations as on the initial Notice period.

Jeff Rickman, Chief of the State Health Benefit Plan, presented an overview of the 2015 SHBP employee contribution rates and plan designs. Mr. Rickman stated that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia will offer Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) options, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), and Medicare Advantage. UnitedHealthcare will offer a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) option, HMO, and Medicare Advantage and Kaiser Permanente will offer a Regional HMO option. Mr. Rickman then presented a summary of the different plan designs and provided an overview of the employee contributions. Mr. Rickman concluded by presenting a resolution entitled "State Health Benefit Plan Calendar Year 2015 Member Contribution Rates." The Board's favorable consideration was requested.

Ms. Jamie Pennington commended the Department for listening to the members, the Board and for putting choice back into the Plan. Mr. Wallace asked for clarification of

the summary for coinsurance. Mr. Rickman clarified that “coins” was short for coinsurance. Mr. Wallace also encouraged the Plan to provide adequate communication to the members, and said he is pleased to see the increase in choices.

Mr. Cox asked about the involvement of the teacher (Janelle Coes) included on the review panel for the proposals submitted to DCH. Mr. Rickman stated that the teacher was involved in the Invitation for Proposal (IFP) process and provided valuable insight. Chairman Boyd then commended the Plan for including a HDHP and asked how the Plan intended to educate the members on how this option differs from the other choices. Mr. Rickman explained that SHBP was cognizant of its responsibility to educate the members regarding this plan option and noted that SHBP has a communication plan in place to ensure all members were clear regarding how a Health Savings Account (HSA) might differ from their previous HRA option. Commissioner Reese added that with regards to the contribution from the State to the HSA, there are none intended for 2015.

Jamie Pennington MADE a MOTION to approve the State Health Benefit Plan-Design and Rates Resolution. Kiera von Besser SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the State Health Benefit Plan-Design and Rates Resolution is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #8).

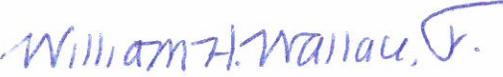
### New Business

None to report.

### Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 14th DAY OF August, 2014.

  
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Jamie Pennington  
Secretary

VICE CHAIR  
FOR  
MS. JAMIE  
PENNINGTON,  
SECRETARY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Norm Boyd  
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 List of Attendees
- #2 Agenda
- #3 Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Rate Increase Public Notice
- #4 Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Rate Increase Public Notice
- #5 New Options Waiver Program (NOW) Rate Increase and New Services Public Notice
- #6 Elderly and Disabled Waiver (E&D) Rate Increase and Quality Incentive Program Public Notice
- #7 Nursing Homes Services Rate Increase Public Notice Change Public Notice
- #8 State Health Benefit Plan-Design and Rates Resolution