

Friday of the month in February, May, August, and November from 10:00 am to noon.

Executive Subcommittee members requested that the February Executive Subcommittee meeting be moved to the afternoon, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm so that, should the General Assembly be in session at that time, the time would not conflict with morning G.A. committee and subcommittee meetings that occur prior to floor session. The Executive Subcommittee approved the meeting dates with this change and the dates will be presented to the full committee for review and approval at the September 10 meeting.

C. Membership Update and Discussion. Daly Konrad provided an update on Committee membership. She stated that the CHIPAC members from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) both have terms that are up for renewal in November. Both agencies are statutory member organizations, and members serve for three-year terms. Daly Konrad stated that, as the Membership Chair position remains vacant, she will follow up with Sherry Sinkler-Crawley (VDSS) and Katharine Hunter (DBHDS) prior to the end of their current terms to ascertain whether they will be renewing their memberships for an additional term.

The group discussed potential members to invite to join the Executive Subcommittee, since membership is currently at a total of four members and it would be ideal for the Executive Subcommittee to be larger. Daly Konrad suggested that a target committee size might be five to six members.

II. DMAS Update

Hope Richardson provided the DMAS update. Richardson stated that total enrollment across eligibility categories was 1,650,542 as of August 1. Programs are continuing to see considerable growth in enrollment during the pandemic and public health emergency. Richardson stated that as of August 1, FAMIS enrollment was at 77,112, M-CHIP (children enrolled in the Medicaid program with funding provided through CHIP/Title XXI dollars) enrollment was at 78,089, and FAMIS MOMS enrollment was at 1,739. Children's and pregnant women's enrollment is increasing across programs. Medicaid children's enrollment was at 560,998 and Medicaid pregnant women's enrollment was at 18,737. Richardson directed members to the DMAS website (www.dmas.virginia.gov) for additional data and dashboards, under "DMAS Open Data" in the left-hand menu on the homepage.

Richardson stated that DMAS staff are preparing for the upcoming Special Session of the legislature that convenes August 18. The General Assembly will consider the possibility of restoring funding for some of the budget items that were "unallotted" in the spring due to COVID-19. Richardson stated that DMAS will be closely following budget items related to the administration's maternal health and racial health equity

priorities, as well as behavioral health redesign and a number of other Medicaid and health-related issues. Richardson explained that since bills will be considered, the Special Session is anticipated to continue for two weeks or longer. Agency staff are preparing to provide rapid-turnaround analysis of legislation and budget amendments that impact DMAS as requested by the Governor's office, just as DMAS does during a "regular" session. Richardson stated that at the same time, DMAS is also preparing for the regular session and beginning the process of internal review of potential agency-requested budget amendments and any agency bills that would be recommended to the Governor's office.

Richardson stated that numerous legislative reports and workgroups are underway at DMAS. The legislature directed DMAS to study the issue of potentially expanding Medicaid-funded school health services outside the individualized education program (IEP). DMAS is working on this study and report. In addition, there were also budget amendments directing DMAS to create a plan for combining the Medallion and CCC contracts into a single streamlined managed care program, and to study the potential for Medicaid funding of doula services for prenatal and postpartum individuals. Richardson stated that annual reports to the General Assembly such as the FAMIS Trust Fund report are currently underway and many are due near the end of the calendar year. Finally, Richardson provided the update that DMAS is working on a CHIP State Plan Amendment (SPA) to fund Virginia's poison control centers through a CHIP Health Services Initiative (HSI), as directed in the recent budget. This HSI, if approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, would be effective in SFY2022.

III. VDSS Update

Sherry Sinkler-Crawley provided the VDSS update. Sinkler-Crawley explained that the federal public health emergency was extended to October 31, 2020, shortly before it had been set to expire at the end of July. This means that the temporary changes made for COVID remain in place. During the emergency period, local departments of social services (LDSS) cannot close cases unless the member moves out of state, is deceased, or requests that their case be closed. DSS is preparing for October 31, since the temporary COVID-related policies and procedures have been in place since late March, creating a backlog of overdue renewals. In preparation, DSS is working with local agencies to inform them about best practices of how to work through the backlog when the time comes. DSS is automating processes as much as possible.

DSS has created a report of renewals due July 2020 through December 2020. This was created not only for Medicaid but also for SNAP and TANF. DSS is collaborating with DMAS and the VaCMS systems team to come up with as many automated processes as possible. Sinkler-Crawley stated that DSS resumed ex parte renewals July 17 and will continue running that every month; they will pick up more and more people each month because the size of the renewal population will grow increasingly larger. She stated that the ex parte rate was 70% prior to COVID and the temporary

suspension of ex parte renewals. In July when ex parte renewals resumed, the rate was 63%. Sinkler-Crawley stated that the report will be run again next weekend.

Sinkler-Crawley explained that pandemic unemployment benefits expired last week without action from Congress. The additional \$600 is not countable income for Medicaid eligibility determination purposes. Sinkler-Crawley pointed out that many people began receiving their benefits late – some as late as July. On August 1, the eligibility system will begin counting unemployment benefits, so a notice has been sent to LDSS that delayed pandemic benefits being sent out now are not to be counted. So far, there has been no news of any denials based on late-received pandemic benefits.

Sinkler-Crawley stated that during the pandemic DSS has been holding biweekly calls with local departments of social services, and these have been very successful. The calls provide new guidance and updates related to temporary processes in place related to all benefit programs. Home office staff answer questions from the local departments and address any concerns that LDSS workers have. Sinkler-Crawley stated that based on positive feedback from LDSS, they plan to continue monthly calls after the public health emergency ends, as it has proven a great way to get important information directly to the local departments.

Sinkler-Crawley stated that DSS is also preparing for the upcoming General Assembly Special Session.

IV. Agenda items for the September 10, 2020 Full Committee Meeting

The Subcommittee discussed the agenda for the upcoming Full Committee meeting. This meeting will again be held virtually. The committee discussed including on the agenda a discussion of agency data initiatives related to racial disparities, with a particular focus on the health of children and pregnant women. Michele Chesser, Joint Commission on Health Care, stated that the VDH data from the maternal and infant mortality and morbidity reviews would be a good topic for discussion.

The Executive Subcommittee decided to include on the agenda a continuation of the Strategic Planning Session from the prior meeting. Daly-Konrad proposed that the Committee could send a letter to the DMAS director summarizing the findings from the strategic planning survey and highlighting priority issues for CHIPAC. Daly-Konrad and Chesser stated that feedback on improvements and clarifications to the CHIPAC Dashboard will be sent to DMAS for review.

The Subcommittee agreed on the following draft agenda for the September 10 Full Committee Meeting:

- 1) Welcome and brief overview of electronic meeting format and procedures**
- 2) CHIPAC Business**
 - a. Review/approval of minutes from prior meeting**

- b.** Review/approval of proposed 2021 meeting schedule
 - c.** Membership update
 - d.** Dashboard
- 3)** DMAS Update
- 4)** VDSS Update
- 5)** Data and Racial Disparities Discussion
- 6)** Strategic Planning Session, Part II
- 7)** Agenda for next CHIPAC Meeting
- 8)** Public Comment

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.