



MEETING MINUTES

August 6, 2021
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

A quorum of the CHIPAC Executive Subcommittee attended the meeting at the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) offices at 600 East Broad Street, Richmond. In accordance with COVID-19 public health precautions, a teleconferencing option was also available to allow Committee members and the public to attend virtually.

The following CHIPAC Executive Subcommittee members were present (in-person):

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| • Denise Daly Konrad, Virginia Health Care Foundation | Chair of CHIPAC |
| • Sara Cariano, Virginia Poverty Law Center | Member at Large |
| • Irma Blackwell, Virginia Department of Social Services | Member at Large |

The following members sent substitutes:

- Lanette Walker, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, sent Kelly Cannon (attended virtually)

The following DMAS staff members were present (in-person):

- Jessica Anecchini, Senior Advisor for Administration
- Hope Richardson, Senior Policy Analyst; Policy, Regulation, and Member Engagement (PRME) Division

Minutes

Denise Daly Konrad, Chair of CHIPAC, called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. Konrad welcomed members and explained that the meeting was being held both in person and electronically due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, with a quorum attending in person. Attendees introduced themselves and attendance was taken.

I. CHIPAC Business

- A. Review and approval of minutes from previous Executive Subcommittee meeting.** Executive Subcommittee members reviewed the minutes from the May 7 Executive Subcommittee meeting. Hope Richardson, DMAS, stated that

there was one change on page 4 to the launch date for expanded Medicaid reimbursement of school health services, to July 1, 2022. Sara Cariano, Virginia Poverty Law Center, moved to accept the minutes with that change. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

B. Membership update and discussion. Konrad explained that several Committee members' terms would be up for renewal later in the year. She stated that she had reached out to these members regarding renewal of their terms and so far the following members have confirmed that they will renew: Dr. Nathan Webb, Medical Society of Virginia; Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse, VCU Health; and Christine McCormick, Virginia Association of Health Plans. Konrad announced that Bern'Nadette Knight, CHIPAC representative for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), has accepted a new role and departed her position at DBHDS, and Nina Marino, Director of the Office of Child and Family Services, will be acting as DBHDS' interim CHIPAC representative while the agency identifies a new representative.

Konrad stated that she had also invited two additional members of the CHIPAC full committee to serve on the executive subcommittee but had not yet received their responses. She then stated that she was nominating Sara Cariano to serve as Vice Chair of CHIPAC. (The Vice Chair position had been vacant.) Kelly Cannon, Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, moved for the subcommittee to recommend Cariano for the position of Vice Chair and put the nomination before the full committee for confirmation, and subcommittee members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Konrad explained that the Committee has a statutory maximum of 20 members, and there is currently a vacancy on the committee. She suggested that, while the Committee is not required to fill the vacancy, it would be useful for the Executive Subcommittee to consider types of organizations that they would like to include in the future when vacancies open up, in addition to the statutory mandatory member organizations. Konrad suggested that two potential areas of member recruitment the committee might consider would be a member representing the disability community and a member representing maternal health priorities, potentially in a community-based, non-clinical role. She invited recommendations from the subcommittee regarding other types of organizations/representatives to consider. Cannon stated that she would send recommendations to Lanette Walker, CHIPAC's VHHA representative, for the committee to potentially consider. Cariano suggested that the committee might also consider inviting participation from representatives of immigrant communities/stakeholders.

C. Approval of 2022 meeting dates and discussion of meeting location/format. Konrad directed subcommittee members to the proposed schedule of subcommittee and committee meeting dates for calendar year 2022. Hope Richardson, DMAS, explained that typically full committee meetings are on the first Thursday of the month in each of the respective quarters, while Executive

Subcommittee meetings are on the first Friday of the month in the respective quarters. She explained that two meeting dates have been moved to a different week, at the same day and time (Thursday at 1:00 pm), in order to avoid having meetings occur immediately after or in the same week as a state holiday. Cariano made a motion to advance the proposed 2022 meeting dates for approval by the full committee and subcommittee voted unanimously in favor.

The committee discussed shortening meeting length and agreed to aim for shorter meetings closer to two hours than three hours long (i.e., 1:00 to 3:00 or 3:30 pm was deemed preferable to the longer meetings the committee has held in past years).

Richardson explained that DMAS was monitoring guidance regarding state public meeting requirements and that the tentative plan was to hold the September 2 CHIPAC meeting in the same location at DMAS. She stated that as of that time, electronic participation was permitted but a physical quorum would be required for the meeting to proceed. She stated that she would keep Committee members apprised of any new developments.

II. DMAS and VDSS Updates

DMAS Update

DMAS staff provided an update on the agency's current projects relevant to the Committee. Richardson provided an enrollment update for the children's and pregnant women's programs and explained that the latest enrollment numbers and other reports remain available by clicking the "Data" tab at the top of the homepage and then clicking on "Enrollment Reports." As of August 1, monthly enrollment was 164,771 in the CHIP children's programs: approximately 81,000 in FAMIS and 84,000 in CHIP-Medicaid expansion (CHIP-funded Medicaid). Additionally, there were 616,897 children enrolled in Medicaid. For the pregnant women's programs: FAMIS MOMS (CHIP-funded) enrollment was 1,720. FAMIS Prenatal Coverage enrollment was 609 as of August 1 (program launched July 1). Medicaid pregnant women's enrollment was 23,875.

Richardson provided an update on the new FAMIS Prenatal Coverage that launched July 1. She explained that the recently passed state budget directed DMAS to provide prenatal coverage to pregnant individuals who would qualify for Medicaid or FAMIS MOMS but for their citizenship or immigration status. Richardson stated that as of August 1, approximately 255 of the members had been enrolled in managed care. The large majority of the enrollees so far are in the Medicaid income range, and there is a high concentration of enrollees in Northern Virginia region. Richardson also announced that Virginia's CHIP State Plan amendment (SPA) authorizing the change was formally approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) retroactive to the July 1 effective date. She stated that a consumer fact sheet is available in English-

Spanish as well as translations for the most frequently spoken languages in the Commonwealth.

Richardson provided an update on Virginia's 12-Months Postpartum Coverage waiver amendment application, explaining that DMAS is in ongoing discussions with CMS and is preparing for the systems and operational changes that will be needed to implement the postpartum coverage. Richardson also provided an update on the timeline for the Medicaid Doula benefit that is in development. She stated that Virginia Department of Health (VDH) regulations are expected to be finalized in late December, then the Virginia Certification Registry will initiate the certification process, and finally doulas will be required to be enrolled and screened by DMAS and contract with a health plan. The estimated timeframe for doulas to enroll and begin providing services in Medicaid will be April to May 2022. Richardson also stated that a legislative report will be delivered later this year providing recommendations on the development of a Medicaid home visiting benefit.

Richardson provided an update on Project BRAVO, stating that the following enhanced behavioral health services are now available:

- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for adults
- Mental health partial hospitalization program for youth and adults
- Mental health intensive outpatient program for youth and adults

Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will increase access to these services over the coming months. Richardson stated that dashboards are being developed by DMAS' behavioral health and data analytics teams as part of Project BRAVO, and that a workgroup of CHIPAC members focused on tracking children's behavioral health data plan to meet with DMAS behavioral health staff to learn more about these dashboards and other available data.

Richardson stated that a legislative report will be released later in the year with DMAS' recommendations regarding the potential merging of the children's coverage programs and transitioning FAMIS children to CHIP-funded Medicaid, which would enable FAMIS children to receive EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment) and would remove co-payments for all children.

Jessica Anecchini, Senior Advisor for Administration, DMAS, provided an update on total enrollment and expansion enrollment. She stated that total enrollment across programs as of August 1 was 1,870,389 and enrollment in the new adult / Medicaid expansion group was 571,034.

Anecchini informed the subcommittee of two legislative reports that DMAS will be contributing to that will be completed later this year:

SSI report: Research and recommendations regarding Virginia becoming a 209(b) state, meaning enrollment in SSI Medicaid is automated via a file transfer from the Social Security Administration.

Children's Coverage Workgroup report: Research and recommendations regarding options to provide health coverage for children regardless of immigration status.

Annechhini reviewed the COVID pages on the DMAS website for users to access for more information about emergency authorities, including newer documents posted after the state emergency period ended. These pages are located in the "Providers" tab under "General Information" → "Emergency Authorities" in the dropdown menus, or at [this link](#). She provided a brief overview of "unwinding," after the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE), stating that the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) has provided general guidance that states will be given a year to come into compliance but must balance that with the fact that the enhanced federal match rate will expire at the end of the quarter in which the federal PHE ends.

Finally, Annechhini provided an update on notice translations, stating that the notice translations in VaCMS are scheduled for an August release, and DSS is currently working with the vendor to verify translations.

VDSS Update

Irma Blackwell, Medical Assistance Program Manager, VDSS Division of Benefit Programs, provided a VDSS update. She stated that the regional practice consultants and home office consultants conducted a "train the trainer" session and home office consultants are conducting statewide information sessions about FAMIS Prenatal Coverage to provide local DSS workers with an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the program.

She explained that VDSS is working with Deloitte to modernize reports and stated that she welcomed ideas from the committee on data that they would like to see in future reports. Konrad stated that CHIPAC had previously begun working with VDSS on ways to improve VDSS/VaCMS data in the CHIPAC dashboard and suggested that committee members would be interested in meeting with Blackwell to discuss opportunities to do this.

III. Agenda items for the September 2, 2021 Full Committee Meeting

The Subcommittee agreed on the following draft agenda for the September 2 Full Committee Meeting:

- 1) Welcome**
- 2) CHIPAC Business**
 - a. Review/approval of minutes from prior meeting**
 - b. Membership update**
 - c. Review/approval of 2022 meeting dates**
- 3) DMAS Update**
- 4) VDSS Update**
- 5) Agenda for next CHIPAC Meeting**

6) Public Comment

The Subcommittee discussed also inviting DMAS' contractor for the Birth Outcomes Study and DMAS maternal-child health unit staff to deliver an update on the latest study findings.

IV. Public Comment

LeVar A. Bowers submitted the following written public comment:

My only comment and primary intent for logging in was to express my gratitude to the committee's work, and for the welcoming and inclusive environment the committee has fostered for public participants such as myself. This marks exactly two years since I've been attending CHIPAC meetings, and it has been very informative and an important part and function to what I know will impact our State rise to the greatness in the areas of this committee's focus. Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing to have a front row seat to the great work of this committee.

The Executive Subcommittee and DMAS staff corresponded with Mr. Bowers after the meeting to follow up on his comments.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.