



MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 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:

- Sara Cariano, Virginia Poverty Law Center Vice Chair
- Irma Blackwell, Virginia Department of Social Services Member at Large
- Freddy Mejia, The Commonwealth Institute Member at Large

The following CHIPAC Executive Subcommittee members attended virtually:

- Lanette Walker, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Member at Large
- Emily Griffey, Voices for Virginia's Children Member at Large
- Emily Roller, Virginia Health Care Foundation, as substitute for Denise Daly Konrad (Chair)

The following DMAS staff members attended:

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

Welcome

Sara Cariano (Virginia Poverty Law Center), Vice Chair of CHIPAC, called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM. Cariano 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. Cariano explained that she would be standing in as Chair for the meeting in Denise Daly Konrad's absence. 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 August 6 Executive Subcommittee meeting. Cariano moved to accept the minutes and the Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve.

B. Membership update and discussion. Cariano explained that several Committee members' terms were up for renewal. She stated that the following members have confirmed that they will renew: Dr. Nathan Webb, Medical Society of Virginia; Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse, VCU Health; Ali Faruk, Families Forward Virginia; and Christine McCormick, Virginia Association of Health Plans. Hope Richardson, DMAS, explained that Victor James of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia Chapter, would be stepping down at the end of his term in December and that the AAP has nominated a new candidate to serve as the Chapter's representative on CHIPAC, Dr. Susan Brown. Lanette Walker of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association made a motion for the Executive Subcommittee to recommend Dr. Brown's confirmation to the full committee at the upcoming December meeting. Irma Blackwell, Virginia Department of Social Services, seconded, and subcommittee members voted unanimously in favor.

The Subcommittee then discussed upcoming Committee leadership transitions. Richardson explained that Konrad's term as Chair was coming to a close at the end of the year and that Cariano as Vice Chair was nominated to become the new Chair. Freddy Mejia, The Commonwealth Institute, made a motion for the Subcommittee to recommend Cariano for the position of Chair at the end of Konrad's leadership term. Walker seconded and subcommittee members voted unanimously in favor. Richardson stated that Konrad's term as a member representing the Virginia Health Care Foundation was also coming to a close, and that VHCF had designated Emily Roller as the organization's new representative effective at the beginning of 2022. Cariano then explained that Lanette Walker was nominated to serve as Vice Chair since Cariano would be vacating the position if confirmed as Chair. Cariano moved for the subcommittee to recommend Walker to the full committee to serve as CHIPAC Vice Chair. Mejia seconded and the subcommittee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The full Committee will vote on the Executive Subcommittee's nominations of Cariano as Chair and Walker as Vice Chair at the December full committee meeting.

C. Discussion of meeting location/format for upcoming meetings. Cariano and Richardson explained that DMAS is monitoring guidance regarding state public meeting requirements and that the current plan is to hold the December 9 CHIPAC meeting in the same location at DMAS. It will be a hybrid meeting, in which electronic participation is permitted but a physical quorum will be required for the Committee to discuss important business or hold votes. Richardson stated that she will keep Committee members apprised of any new developments.

Richardson stated that the Committee will likely continue to hold the 2022 meetings at DMAS because the setup is convenient for hybrid meetings and it is possible that these will continue well into the year. She explained that DMAS and Committee leadership will work with any members who anticipate difficulty with the DMAS location such as parking issues and will encourage members to reach out to her and to Denise and Sara with questions and concerns.

D. Dashboard discussion. Cariano provided an update on the CHIPAC dashboard and data the Committee is interested in monitoring. She explained that members of the committee interested in Medicaid and FAMIS children’s behavioral health data have met with DMAS staff and gathered additional information regarding (1) DMAS dashboards being developed for Project BRAVO and (2) HEDIS data stewarded by DMAS’ Office of Quality and Population Health. These members plan to continue discussions regarding how this information can inform the CHIPAC dashboard or other data projects of the Committee with the goal of reporting out at the March full Committee meeting.

Cariano stated that the Executive Subcommittee is also working with the Virginia Department of Social Services to better understand VDSS/VaCMS data—specifically applications, eligibility and enrollment data—that would lend itself to presentation in the CHIPAC dashboard.

II. DMAS and VDSS Updates

VDSS Update

Irma Blackwell, Medical Assistance Program Manager, Division of Benefit Programs, provided a VDSS update. She stated that she is working with CHIPAC to target reports that are useful and relevant for the Committee. She explained that Committee members have expressed an interest in understanding reasons for denial and closure as well as overdue applications, particularly for cases including pregnant individuals. The Committee is also interested in additional information on the Medicaid expansion, former foster youth, and FAMIS Prenatal populations. Blackwell stated that the Committee remains interested in continuing to receive information regarding ex parte renewals. She explained that there is an effort underway through a partnership with Deloitte to improve the accessibility of data with the ability to generate more user-friendly ad hoc reports.

DMAS Update

DMAS staff provided an update on the agency’s current programs and projects relevant to the Committee. Richardson provided an enrollment update for the children’s and pregnant women’s programs. As of October 1, monthly enrollment was 166,536 in the CHIP children’s programs: approximately 80,181 in FAMIS and 86,355 in CHIP-Medicaid expansion (CHIP-funded Medicaid). Additionally, there were 626,507 children enrolled in Medicaid. There were approximately 3,723 individuals enrolled in

programs for FAMIS pregnant members, and Medicaid pregnant women's enrollment was 24,548.

Richardson provided an update on the new FAMIS Prenatal Coverage that launched July 1. She explained that the state budget directed DMAS to provide prenatal coverage to pregnant individuals who would qualify for Medicaid or FAMIS MOMS but for their immigration status. Richardson stated that as of October 19 there were 2,818 members enrolled in FAMIS Prenatal. The majority of the enrollees so far are in the Medicaid income range.

Richardson provided an update on Virginia's 12-Months Postpartum Coverage 1115 demonstration amendment application, explaining that DMAS is in ongoing discussions with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is preparing for the systems and operational changes that will be needed to implement the extended postpartum coverage. She explained that New Jersey's waiver application for extended postpartum coverage had recently been approved by CMS and the approval package is publicly available on the CMS website for review. She stated that the outlook is good for approval of Virginia's postpartum waiver amendment.

Richardson provided an update on the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources' workgroup on expanding health coverage options for undocumented children. She stated that workgroup members recently reviewed the workgroup's draft report and offered feedback. She explained that in response to workgroup feedback, DMAS is revising enrollment ramp-up estimates in their cost estimate for the report. Richardson stated that the Secretary's Office is currently working on incorporating feedback into the report and once the report has been updated it will be released as a legislative report in late 2021.

Richardson stated that a legislative report will be released in December 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. She explained that Open Enrollment had just begun and DMAS will have a more detailed update on Open Enrollment for the full committee meeting in December. She stated that Cover Virginia is continuing to improve across all areas and maintain their service level agreements within the call center. Eligibility is quickly catching up and a separate contracted application processing team is supporting that effort. They have fully resolved delays in processing of pregnant women. Anecchini stated that DMAS welcomes input and comments and will track issues to make sure that any problems identified are properly resolved.

Anecchini stated that DMAS will provide a presentation about unwinding for the December CHIPAC meeting, with information based on the latest available CMS

guidance. She explained that currently there are no guarantees as to when the federal public health emergency (PHE) will officially end. She explained that provisions of the federal Build Back Better Act, if passed, would also affect the unwinding process.

Anecchini provided an update on the Afghan evacuees and Medicaid eligibility. She stated that DMAS has been coordinating with organizations including the Virginia Poverty Law Center and Virginia Health Care Foundation and has held enrollment events at the military bases and hotels housing Afghan evacuees. Application events are prioritizing children, pregnant women, and newborns who have been born in the U.S. following arrival, as well as individuals with emergency medical needs.

III. Agenda items for the December 2021 Full Committee Meeting

The Subcommittee discussed agenda topics for the December 9 CHIPAC meeting. Members proposed including in the meeting agenda a committee discussion of the upcoming General Assembly session. Members confirmed that they would welcome updates from DMAS on unwinding from the federal PHE, Open Enrollment, COVID-19 response, Afghan evacuees, and the federal Build Back Better legislation.

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

- 1) Welcome**
- 2) CHIPAC Business**
 - a. Review/approval of minutes from prior meeting**
 - b. Membership update**
 - c. Dashboard review**
- 3) Discussion: General Assembly Session**
- 4) DMAS Update**
- 5) VDSS Update**
- 6) Agenda for next CHIPAC Meeting**
- 7) Public Comment**

IV. Public Comment

Public comment was invited. There was no public comment.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.