

Alabama Medicaid Agency Dental Workgroup Meeting

Friday, September 18, 2015 1:00 PM

Lurleen Wallace Building, Second Floor Auditorium

Members present: Dave White, Christine King, Steve Mitchell, Zack Studstill, and Robert Meador

Members present via conference call: Max Mayer, Conan Davis, and Dwight Williams

Medicaid Staff members present: Stephanie Azar, Beth Huckabee, Robert Moon, Beverly Churchwell, Theresa Richburg, Daneta Parker, Linda Segrest, and Drew Nelson

Vendor and other public visitors present: Johnny Crawford, Melvin Marraman, Mike Weeks, Lauren Overton, Jim Mercer, Brandi Parris, and Stuart Lockwood

Welcome and Introductions: The Dental Study Workgroup was held today at 1:10 PM in the Alabama Medicaid Lurleen Wallace State Office Building, Second Floor Auditorium. Beth Huckabee welcomed all and began introductions for members as well as visitors present.

Opening Comments: Beth Huckabee opened the comments with an apology for excluding information from the presentation by Alabama Dental Association, UAB School of Dentistry, and Alabama Association of Pediatric Dentistry and said a revised draft has been provided to include this. Commissioner Azar made comments regarding the General Fund appropriation for FY 2016. She stated Medicaid received level funding at \$685 million. The Nursing Home and Pharmacy providers agreed to an increase in the provider taxes of \$16 million for Medicaid putting the total amount at \$701 million. \$44 million was not appropriated as requested. The Governor and providers will work together for RCOs to go forward as current services continue.

Azar continued by stating RCO Legislation of 2013 required an evaluation report by the Agency on October 1, 2015. The report is to give an overview and evaluation of the dental program. The summary will include further research and the Workgroup meeting again.

Azar also referenced the Long Term Care legislation that required a report on the LTC program by October 1, 2015. Because a provision in new LTC legislation concerning the Integrated Care Network (ICN) passed in the regular Legislative session, the report no longer required.

Studstill asked Azar to review the reference to the LTC report and the ICN which she did.

Open Discussion: Azar then opened the floor for comments regarding the draft report posted on the website on 9/17/15.

Studstill brought several comments concerning the report:

- In the section "Comparison of Dental Program to Other States, first paragraph: a footnote is needed here saying this was not a formal study so assumptions would not be made from a scarce amount of data.
- In the same section, second paragraph, third sentence: there is no reference to Fee for service in other states. He suggested a reference be made here.

- In the same section, second paragraph, seventh sentence: He would like clarification of “overall states with managed care report a...” as the wording was not clear if it meant all states. Mitchell also asked for clarification if that statement means better than ours or better than their past experience.
- In the section “Alternative Dental Programs”, second paragraph: Studstill questioned the listing of Kentucky in the list of states as he has learned that MCNA may not have that contract currently and asked Johnny Crawford of MCNA for clarification.

Crawford confirmed Kentucky’s status but did not know the specific details. White suggested changing “serves” to “served”.

- In the appendices section, Appendix 2A (8/14/15 minutes), “Other state Dental Program Update”, “According to CMS through Medicaid.gov and OTAG” section: He asked for clarification of why the number of states do not add to 50.
- In the same section, “Question #3 – 4 states responded” section: Studstill asked for clarification of how providers are struggling.

Crawford states MCNA is prepared to make a report presentation and regrets not being able to present by October 1 to give all information possible.

Azar agreed that these points need clarifying and this was an informal study. Mitchell added there are national studies that show how Alabama compares to other states. She asked that written comments or questions be addressed to Beth Huckabee. Then a revised report including these points would be send out again to the members.

Next Steps: Azar shared that data sharing agreements are being worked out with vendors and they will be able to present their findings at another meeting. Then the group will have rationale for the decision made. Mitchell asked Azar regarding amount of provider input if the dental program goes into RCO. Azar answered providers will have a lot of input.

There were no other questions or comments.

Meeting was adjourned.