

**ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY
PHYSICIANS' TASK FORCE MEETING
December 5, 2012
Conference Room 8-D 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

Members Present

Drs. Robert Moon, Melinda Rowe, Dave Johnson (telephone), Jeremy Stidham, Marsha Raulerson (telephone), Robert Smith, Mary McIntyre, Wes Stubblefield (telephone), Steven Baldwin (telephone), Chelley Alexander (telephone), and Rao Thotakura (telephone). Cary Kuhlmann, Kim Eason (telephone), Laura O'Connor (telephone), Linda Lee

Medicaid/HP Staff Present

Desiree Nelson, Mary Hasselwander, Robin Rawls, Theresa Richburg, Betty Payne, Gary Parker, Sharon Moore-Grimes, Chris McInnish, Taylor Bright, LaShondra Lewis, Jacqueline King, Kelli Littlejohn, and Angela Williams

Welcome and Review of Minutes

Dr. Rowe welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. The minutes from September 27, 2012, meetings were reviewed. Dr. Raulerson presented a correction regarding American Academy of Pediatrics. The minutes were then motioned and approved.

Patient Care Networks of Alabama (PCNAs)

Medical Director Reports

North (Dr. Thotakura)

The Network is working to improve communication between PMP and Network Personnel and provide reports to doctors to help identify patients with high morbidity. In return, doctors can bring patients in for follow up visits and medication reconciliation. Also, PMPs are interested in an obesity initiative (nutrition program). Program will consist of 8-12 participants for 10 sessions over 10 weeks. Participants will learn how to plan meals and prepare food. Parents and children are to take part in the program. Additionally, proposed camp will be available for 4 hours a day for 5 days. The targeted group is a group with an increased need for these services. Doctors will work with Mental Health via Telepsychiatry to reconcile medication for participants with mental health issues. Initiative has been taken to provide the flu vaccinations for medical home patients. Program has administered over 500 shots in the clinics. Transitional care nurses are doing well getting hospital data and getting newborns with pediatricians. Changes are going well to reduce cost. North PCNA Counties include Cullman, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan.

East (Dr. Stubblefield)

The East Network initiatives are similar to the initiatives in the North. Network is providing flu shot clinics. Care coordinators are contacting clients to get them into the medical home for vaccines. Also, Network is continuing with newborn care and placing newborns into medical home. The East is working with Sickle Cell patients to reduce use of medication and visits to the emergency room. Network is reporting to providers on Asthma/Diabetes metrics and work with Medicaid and data team to ensure information is appropriate, timely and reflective of diabetes management. In return, the Network will provide a report card of communication, referrals and costs. The East is currently in the implementation phase of a hypertension initiative for equipment, training, and management of blood pressure in adults and children. The obesity initiative is in progress. Hospital/health care providers are screening children who are overweight and working with health care facility in Tallapoosa County on education and physical activity. The Network is hoping to expand this initiative. The Behavior Health Nurse is now working full time. Successes: Transitional Care, ED Call Back Program, and PMPs are more receptive. Challenges: Area hospital reluctant in providing information, access to care, and logistics. Overall Network is pleased. East PCNA counties: Tallapoosa, Coosa, Lee, Russell, Chambers, Macon and Bullock.

West (Dr. Alexander)

The Network consists of 8 counties, 40 providers and 12,000 Medicaid clients. Network has partnered with Verizon, University of AL, and Corporate Health Center and is offering Telemedicine and diabetes education/training/counseling in rural areas. The newborn program hired a newborn nurse to assist with discharges to ensure newborns receive vaccines and adequate check-ups. Community groups hold Medical Management meetings. Recent topic was Psychiatric treatment in rural areas – possibly hiring a Psychiatrist to be on call. Success: Network has formed community relationships. Challenge: Network wants to increase the number of visits for people with chronic disease. The Network is having a great impact in the area, saving money and getting all entities in the community involved. MedNet West PCNA counties: Tuscaloosa, Pickens, Fayette, Bibb, Green, Hale, Sumter, and Lamar.

Gulf (Ms. O'Connor)

The area consists of Mobile and Washington counties. The Network has 100% participation out of 47 providers. First initiative is the COPD and Asthma initiative to begin in December. Challenge: Network was having trouble hiring a pharmacist but a new pharmacist recently started and is working on medication reconciliation. Network is conducting face-to-face calls with providers. University of South AL is pilot for transitional program. Challenge: Network is having trouble getting the patients in to get the Flu shot due to the patients stating the Flu shot makes them sick. The Network is working on this issue. Discussion continued on the 14 visit minimum by Linda Lee (AL Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics), sharing unused visits, and Emergency Room (ER) visits. Dr. Moon reiterated that it would be better for the client to see the primary physician because the provider may know more about client's history and medications than the ER doctor.

Primary Care Payment Increase (Sharon Grimes-Moore)

Effective January 1, 2013, eligible primary care physicians will receive an increase in pay in accordance with the Affordable Care Act. The fee increase applies to physicians who practice in family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatric medicine and related subspecialties. Providers must be board certified in eligible categories or bill at least 60% of codes in 2012 for E & M codes or codes related to vaccine administration.

Health Information Exchange (Gary Parker)

Gary presented Health Record slide show included in packet distributed to attendees. HIE is up and has been running for months. The Exchange includes 5 years of information for Medicaid client as well as CHIP clients. Program is currently connecting to hospitals and providers. Program is also working with BCBS to use direct email. Work is in progress with connecting ADPH Immunization Registry. The overall goal is connecting HIES. Challenge: Adoption

Pharmacy (Dr. Kelli Littlejohn)

Dr. Miller (ADPH) is leading Task Force for Prescription Drug Abuse. The Task Force is working on reducing prescription drug abuse and gaining access to data to track when Medicaid clients are paying cash for medication.

Medicaid is working with ADPH to allow Medicaid to have access to data that shows recipients spending their own money for medications. See additional provided information in packet.

Enrollment (Betty Payne)

Federal law requires that any provider that orders, prescribes, or refers (OPR) services to an Alabama Medicaid recipient must be enrolled in the Alabama Medicaid Program. As of January 1, 2013, new prescriptions will be denied if provider is not enrolled. The following questions were raised:

Dr. Steve Baldwin: Does this case conflict with providing services to Medicaid client for emergency services?

Betty Payne: The ER provider has to be enrolled.

Dr. Steve Baldwin: Will this result in the hospital not being paid?

Betty Payne: Possibly.

Dr. Smith: Will Pharmacist have a list of providers that are Medicaid?

Betty Payne: Prescription refills will continue until refills are exhausted. New prescriptions will be denied. Suggestions were made to inform non-providers about the new policy – newsletter, web link, MASA alert, etc. Please see the attached 12/11/12 AMA Alert and January 2013 Provider Insider for more information on OPR.

Medicaid Update (Dr. Moon)

Dr. Moon reported that the Legislative Oversight Committee is exploring options for Medicaid running parallel to a governor’s appointed commission on Medicaid. The governor’s appointed commission consists of a broad spectrum of people. Full Commission Meetings are held monthly. Executive Commission Meetings are bi-weekly. Medicaid may go into some form of Managed Care or Regional System of Care with payment methodology in the lines of an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). The Commission has not decided on type or style. Committee should respond to Governor by February 1, 2013. Regarding FY13, budget passage of amendment has put the Agency in a better position. However, agency is still 20 to 40 million dollars short for 2013. Commission is currently working on FY14 recommendations.

Policy Update (Dr. Rowe)

Policy updates will be sent out to PTF for input and review.

10/1/12 Growth hormone change

1/1/13 Avastin for breast cancer – no new starts

1/1/13 Cosmetic versus reconstructive – does not pay for cosmetic procedures, surgeries, medications, etc.

Update provided on Medicaid as “payor of last resort”. If Medicaid is billed for preventive services for children, Medicaid is required to “pay and chase” the claim from the secondary insurance. Please see the January 2013 Provider Insider for more detail on “payor of last resort”, OPR, and several topics covered today. Suggestions made for Medicaid to send welcome packets with letters of introduction and guidance for patients. Agency staff will research and bring packet of information currently sent to Medicaid recipients to next PTF meeting 3/28/13. Discussion followed regarding concerns about payments for repeat circumcisions. Agency staff will research and recommend coverage criteria for repeat circumcisions.

Next Meeting Date

Will send a survey regarding PTF meeting dates for calendar year 2013.

Please note that after response to survey the following dates were determined for PTF meetings for 2013:

- **Thursday 3/28/13 1 to 3pm**
- **Wednesday 6/26/13 1 to 3pm**
- **Thursday 9/26/13 1 to 3pm**
- **Wednesday 12/4/13 1 to 3pm**

Closing of Meeting Requested new topics to be sent at least 2 weeks in advance to angela.williams@medicaid.alabama.gov.

Recorded by:
LaShondra Lewis

LaShondra Lewis/AL
ASA II, Medical Support Programs

9/26/2013
Date

Reviewed by:
Theresa Richburg, RN

Theresa Richburg
Director, Medical Service Division

9/26/2013
Date

Approved by:
Melinda Rowe, M.D.

Melinda H. Rowe, MD
Assistant Medical Director, Health Systems

9/26/2013
Date