

**ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY
PHYSICIANS' TASK FORCE MEETING
March 17, 2011
4TH FLOOR BOARDROOM
1:00PM-3:00PM**

Members Present:

Robert H. Moon, R. Bob Mullins, Jr., Robert Smith, Tom Miller, Cary Kuhlmann (phone), David Johnson, Linda Lee, Marsha Raulerson (phone), Jeff Arrington, Grace Thomas, Linda Antz (phone)

Medicaid Staff Present:

Kathy Hall, Henry Davis, Kim Davis-Allen, Kelli Littlejohn, (HP) Cyndi Crockett, Mary Timmerman, Gail Williams, Nancy Headley, Gretel Felton

Welcome Review of Minutes:

Dr. Moon welcomed everyone, providing a brief introduction of the members, and appreciation of their attendance. The minutes from the last meeting were accepted with no changes. Introduction of the Commissioner R. Bob Mullins, Jr. was made. Commissioner Mullins stated his appreciation of the Physician's Task Force and his appreciation of their willingness to help with ongoing Agency projects.

New Business/Topics of Discussion

Commissioner Mullins:

- The Federal Government is creating agencies to oversee the cost effectiveness of the Affordable Care Act which will have far reaching implications other than insurance coverage for the uninsured. MACPAC is a be instrumental in the over site of how Medicaid and Medicare money is spent.
- One of the number one goals of the Agency is to educate legislators on the budgeting process.
- Request that providers make recommendations on how to streamline spending without cutting services.
- Specialty Group and Physician's Task Force Committee combine to form one committee to assist with ideas on meeting budget projections in critical areas such as hospital, nursing homes etc... The first meeting of this combined group will meet in June 2011. This will not be incorporated into the Advisory Committee.
- The Agency will continue looking at managed care and the role it will play in 2014 when Medicaid enrollment is projected to increase by 50 to 60%.
- Provider Group is asked to give recommendations on how the Agency should approach and define managed care
- Request ideas in preserving the private practice of medicine in conjunction with the implementation of budget constraints that is projected over the next four years.

Henry Davis:

Legislative Update

- Commissioner Mullins will be meeting with the House and Senate Finance on March 23, 2011 at 5:00p.m. in the House Chamber for presentation of Medicaid Budget.

Dr. Robert Moon:

Care Networks

- Care Networks are tentatively awarded in east, west and north Alabama pending CMS final approval. Approval is expected by the end of April 2011. The networks will have a month or two startup time which will begin May 1, 2011. The names of the board members of these programs will be shared with the group once CMS approval is received.

- Patient list will continue as is with two changes which include the requirements for the on call program and the care management fees.

Kim Davis-Allen:

HIE Update

- The health information exchange has been approved and funding has been released by CMS. The system should be fully operational by January 2012 with information exchange capabilities in place.

Cyndi Crockett:

HP Update

- CMS mandated provider re-enrollment is required every five years beginning October 2011. Home Health and DME providers will be required to re-enroll every year.
- Provider and recipient web-portals for enrollment and information updates will be implemented before the end of 2011.

Kelli Littlejohn:

Pharmacy

- Gold Standard Program implementation is expected in the next few weeks.
- Synagis utilization review group to meet May or June 2011.

Nancy Headley

Psychology

- Referral form will not be implemented. Manual changes will be made regarding provider communication with PMP's when services are provided.
- Psychology annual visits decreased to max 52 for individual and group therapy, Alert sent to providers March 2, 2011.

Maternity

- Currently one year into the contract. Data to measure compliance with performance bench marks will be submitted electronically by March 30, 2011

Dental

- UAB reviewing recommendations of the Dental Sub-Committee, once finalized, report will be forwarded to Commissioner Mullins for review.

Neonatology

- Projected to have system changes completed in near future to allow provider types other than neonatologist to bill initial and continuous intensive care procedure codes 99477-99480.

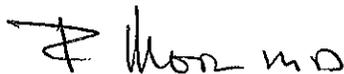
Gretel Felton

Eligibility

- Robert Wood Johnson Grant one million dollar grant awarded in 2009 to be used over four year time frame for expediting enrollment of eligible Alabama children. Agency is looking to streamline efforts through customer service centers, increased web access and networking with other state agencies.
- Montgomery office is processing center for electronic case files.

Dr. Robert Moon:

- Requested physician participation in backlog of Fair Hearing cases.
- The **next meeting** will be scheduled **September 29, 2011** from 1pm to 3pm. Please send new topics at least 2 weeks in advance to mary.timmerman@medicaid.alabama.gov. Efforts to secure parking spaces in the deck for the next meeting will be made.



Robert Moon, M.D., Medical Director
Deputy Commissioner, Health Systems

6-22-11

Date

RM/gw

