

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

July 30, 2021 · 1:00 PM

State Capitol Building – Room 113
400 High Street, Jackson, MS 39201

I. Call to Order

- Wil Ervin called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

- Wil Ervin called roll of the voting committee members and confirmed a quorum was present for voting purposes.
- **Voting members in attendance: Dr. David Reeves** (Long Beach), **Mr. Benny Hubbard** (Magee), **Dr. Charles O'Mara** (Ridgeland), **Ms. Phaedre Cole** (Greenwood), **Dr. Justin Brewer** (Tupelo), **Dr. Billy Long** (Madison)
- **Voting members in attendance via phone/Zoom/Teams: Dr. James Rish** (Tupelo), **Dr. Thomas Dobbs** (Jackson), **Jasmin Chapman, DDS** (Terry), **Mr. Kent Nicaud** (Pass Christian)
- **Voting members not in attendance: Mr. Lee Bond** (Ocean Springs)
- **Legislators in Attendance: Senator Hob Bryan**, Chairman of Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and **Senator Briggs Hopson**, Chairman of Senate Appropriations Committee

III. Approval of meeting minutes from June 25, 2021

- *Motion: Dr. Long*
- *Second: Dr. O'Mara*
- *Meeting minutes were approved unanimously*

IV. Old Business:

- *Election of MCAC Chairperson*
 - *Motion: Kent Nicaud nominated Dr. David Reeves*
 - *Second: Dr. O'Mara*
 - *No other nominations were made*
 - *Vote: The nomination of Dr. Reeves was approved unanimously.*
 - *Dr. Reeves accepted.*

V. New Business

- Wil Ervin offered Medicaid's support to the Committee including Medicaid information to help inform the Committee on recommendations and decisions. Wil asked the Committee to consider what type of information would be helpful to see going forward and for those requests to be made prior to the next meeting.
- Dr. Dobbs posed a question regarding current reimbursement to physicians for Depo-Provera with concern that Medicaid reimbursement is lower than the cost of physicians in private practice to obtain. He asked if this could be remedied in the context of Medicaid's current restrictions in raising reimbursements or if that is something that cannot be fixed in the current fiscal year?

- Wil Ervin agreed to investigate this further and offer additional information.
- Dr. Rish requested to have physicians review Medicaid's Hospital Observation Policy as an agenda item at the next meeting. The Committee agreed to add this item to the next agenda.
- Senator Bryan discussed current legislation freezing Medicaid reimbursement rates, along with general questions of how managed care functions and offered that this may be something the Committee might study and discuss. He also suggested that the Committee look at policy and reimbursement related to mental health services.
- Dr. Reeves described difficulty in obtaining mental health care follow up and access to providers, specifically on the coast. Dr. Jeremy Erwin with Magnolia explained that Magnolia is continually looking at network adequacy and monitors on a quarterly basis. Dr. Erwin offered to investigate any specific situation or areas if requested. Dr. Reeves added that a lot of the local specialties in psychology and psychiatry are not enrolled with the MCOs. He also stated that Gulfport Behavioral Health was taken over by another entity and is now only doing inpatient services. It is now taking months for a person to get an appointment with Pinebelt Mental Health. As a result, other practitioners, including himself, are being required to manage psychiatric medications for his pediatric patients. Dr. Erwin explained that there is a lack of provider parity in the state in certain specialty areas.
Dr. Rish explained the importance of having follow up care after a psychiatric hospital stay within a reasonable time as this prevents rapid readmissions.
- Mr. Hubbard and the Committee discussed the current legislative language that freezes reimbursement rates for Medicaid services at the rate in effect on July 1, 2021
- Senator Hopson asked for clarification related to the legislative language being discussed. Mr. Drew Snyder explained the code section being discussed was 43-13-117.
- Dr. Long asked for a better understanding of the rate freeze legislation and the group discussed the various processes and approvals of the Medicaid Technical Amendments Bill including the current language limiting payment rates and services.

- The members of the Committee discussed at length the adverse impacts of the Medicaid rate freeze legislation on multiple provider types. A motion was made to request the legislature review and reconsider the language in Mississippi Code Section 43-13-117 in any special session called by the Governor or in the 2022 regular session.

Motion: Mr. Hubbard

Second: Dr. O'Mara

Motion was adopted unanimously.

- Dr. Long requested that Medicaid provide the Committee more information at the next meeting on the Technical Amendments legislative process.
- Dr. Reeves asked that a copy of the Technical Amendments Bill be provided to each committee member.
- Dr. Long asked how Medicaid interacts with the Medicaid population in our state regarding vaccinations. Specifically what percentage of Medicaid recipients are vaccinated? Mr. Snyder explained the data challenges related to the many different vaccine access points and how a person obtains their vaccination has affected the availability of that information. He explained there are conversations between Medicaid and the Mississippi Department of Health to streamline data access. Dr. Dobbs added that to improve access and efficiency, payor data was not collected in the drive through vaccination sites. However, there may be a database that could offer information and inform about those percentages.

VI. Next Meeting – The next meeting is planned for Friday, October 1, 2021 at 1:00pm.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn- Mr. Nicaud

Second- Mr. Hubbard

Motion to adjourn was unanimous