

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

February 4, 2022 · 1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

I. Call to Order

- Dr. David Reeves called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

- Dr. David Reeves called roll and confirmed a quorum was present for voting purposes.
- **Voting members in attendance: Dr. David Reeves** (Long Beach), **Dr. James Rish** (Tupelo), **Mr. Benny Hubbard** (Magee), **Dr. Charles O'Mara** (Ridgeland), **Ms. Phaedre Cole** (Greenwood), **Jasmin Chapman, DDS** (Terry), **Mr. Lee Bond** (Ocean Springs), **Dr. Thomas Dobbs** (Jackson)
- **Voting members not in attendance: Mr. Kent Nicaud** (Pass Christian), **Dr. Billy Long** (Madison), **Dr. Justin Brewer** (Tupelo),
- **Legislators in Attendance: Senator Kevin Blackwell**, Chairperson of Senate Medicaid Committee

III. Approval of meeting minutes from December. 10, 2021

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

IV. Old Business:

- Hospital Observation Policy Subcommittee
 - Dr. Rish offered an update and included that the committee plans to meet again in the next several weeks to discuss and will offer a policy recommendation at that time.
- COVID Vaccination Rates
 - Dr. Reeves discussed the information and rates of Medicaid beneficiaries. He shared that as a practitioner he has seen a lot of resistance of parents to vaccinate
 - Wil Ervin explained there has been some complications exchanging the data, and DOM just received the data yesterday (Dec. 9, 2021). The Division would like to produce a high-level report for the committee at a later date after further review.

V. New Business:

- 2022 Legislative Session
Medicaid Executive Director Drew Snyder explained that there are currently seven bills in the Senate that are still active that came out of the Medicaid Committee and two in the House. Three of those have passed the full Senate.
 - One of those is the legislation Senator Blackwell presented to extend postpartum coverage from two months to a full year.

- There is legislation allowing long term care provider types to treat paroled inmates and authorize Medicaid funding for that effort.
- Senate Bill 2739 sets up a process for licensing non-emergency transportation drivers.
- Senate Bill 658 removes the rate freeze language in MS Code Section 43-13-117 (D) and establishes a notification process for the Division anytime there are changes in payments to providers. Director Snyder explained there may also be changes in reimbursement related to oxygen supplies and some other DME equipment.
- Senate Bill 2659 allows the Division to continue previously approved State Plan payment methods if CMS denies a proposed State Plan Amendment to change such payment methods. This would ensure preservation of federal matching funds for reimbursement to providers.
- Senate Bill 2345 would pay the encounter rate to community health centers for both the originating site and the distant site for telehealth transactions.
- Senate Bill 2664 provides some provisions on free standing birthing centers.
- There are two bills in the House both addressing the rate freeze language. House Bill 657 would require a legislative committee notice and review process for any rate proposals or rate changes, so the Division would need to give notice before any proposed changes to payments, payment methods or rates and would submit notice to both the House and Senate Medicaid Committees, House and Senate Appropriations committees. The notice period would also apply to proposed administrative rules, proposed state plan amendments, and any recommendations to the pharmacy and therapeutics (P&T) committee about prior approvals of certain drug classes. This Bill would also add appointees from the Speaker of the House and the Governor to the P&T committee.
- The second bill in the House is like the first but only addresses rate changes.
- Senator Blackwell confirmed the explanations of the legislation given by Drew and added that there is also language for the Specialty and Pediatric Hospitals that are contiguous with any of our counties. Senator Blackwell also explained the language allows for reimbursement and supplemental payments for those providers as well.
- Dr. Reeves referenced the Committee's letters of recommendation removing the rate freeze language and commended the Legislature for working on that.
- Dr. Reeves questioned if it would really be helpful for the legislature to review all the many changes that are made to the State Plan, especially those driven by HHS.
- Dr. Dobbs stated that the extension of coverage of women for a year after delivery could have positive health impacts and decrease cost based on previous analysis.
- Dr. Reeves stated that he agreed with Dr. Dobbs and supported that language also based on experiences in his practice over the last few years.

- Dr. Rish asked about legislation related to the DME, specifically oxygen. He offered that Oxygen is a drug and should have same considerations when prescribing as with any other drug.
- Mr. Hubbard shared that he appreciated the leadership of Senator Blackwell especially as it relates to the removal of the Medicaid rate freeze. He also stated he thinks the transparency language component on the House side may be a bit cumbersome for Medicaid.
- Mr. Hubbard also asked about the special facility for paroled inmates and Medicaid reimbursing for that. Specifically, would CMS allow Medicaid to reimburse for care of a paroled inmate? Mr. Snyder stated we could look further into that.
- Dr. Reeves offered a brief update related to Certified Community Mental Health Centers stating that one of the appropriation committees are working on this but was not able to offer further specifics.
- Dr. Reeves also thanked the committee for both recommendation letters in support of removal of the rate freeze and the CCBHC models.

VI. Next Meeting – The next meeting is planned for Friday, April 8, 2022, at 1:00pm.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn- Dr. Rish

Second- Mr. Hubbard

Motion to adjourn was unanimous