

# Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

August 19, 2022 · 1:00 PM

Woolfolk Building – Conference Room 145

501 North West Street, Jackson, MS 39201

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## 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.
- **Voting members in attendance: Dr. David Reeves** (Long Beach), **Dr. James Rish** (attending virtually) (Tupelo), **Mr. Benny Hubbard** (Magee), **Dr. Charles O'Mara** (attending virtually) (Ridgeland), **Ms. Phaedre Cole** (Greenwood), **Dr. Justin Brewer** (attending virtually) (Tupelo), **Dr. Billy Long** (Madison), **Dr. Daniel Edney** (attending virtual) (Jackson), **Mr. Lee Bond** (Ocean Springs), **Dr. Jasmin Chapman, DDS** (attending virtually) (Terry)
- **Voting members not in attendance: Mr. Kent Nicaud** (Pass Christian)
- **Legislators in Attendance: Senator Kevin Blackwell** (attending virtually), **Senator Joey Fillingane** (attending virtually) and **Senator Hob Bryan** (attending virtually)

## III. Approval of meeting minutes from April 8, 2022

- *Motion: Dr. Long*
- *Second: Mr. Hubbard*
- *Meeting minutes were approved unanimously*

## IV. Old Business:

- Hospital Observation Policy Subcommittee
  - Wil Ervin offered an update and explained the Division is continuing to work on the policy. The anticipated changes will require an amendment to the Medicaid State Plan. The most challenging aspect of the change will be due to the upcoming Medicaid transition to the new MMIS system scheduled to take place in early October. This policy change will require system changes to the new system and there will be a temporary stabilization period for approximately six months after go-live. While the Division intends to make the revisions, changes will not take place in calendar year 2022; the Division will keep the Committee updated on the progress.
- Smoking Cessation Discussion
  - Wil Ervin explained current fee-for-service (FFS) coverage includes smoking cessation medications for all Medicaid beneficiaries. Smoking cessation counseling is a covered service only for pregnant women. Wil also confirmed smoking cessation medication counts against the monthly six prescription drug limit, but that Medicaid is looking at that and may revise the policy in the future.

V. **New Business:**

- Dr. Edney – Monkey Pox Update
  - Dr. Edney reported there are currently seventeen confirmed cases in the state. Most of those are in central Mississippi in the Jackson area but those are expected to increase. There is a limited but sufficient supply of Monkey Pox vaccine at this time. Dr. Edney also confirmed there is sufficient availability of TPOXX, the medication being used to treat Monkey Pox.
  - Dr. Long asked if there was a plan to vaccinate HIV positive patients against Monkey Pox. Dr. Edney explained that about 80 percent of the men right now with Monkey Pox are living with HIV. Dr. Edney also said they have prioritized vaccinating high-risk individuals including those with known contacts or high-risk behaviors to contain the virus.
- Dr. Reeves asked Dr. Edney about his understanding of Medicaid coverage for substance abuse treatments. Dr. Edney explained Medicaid does cover services for patients in treatment including individual or group therapy and physician services but does not cover room and board. Other states have achieved a waiver to be able to supply substance abuse treatment more comprehensively in a budget neutral way. Dr. Edney asked that this be discussed further to achieve better recovery outcomes including residential care followed by outpatient care.
  - Wil Ervin explained the federal IMD exclusion prohibits payments for individuals ages 21 and 65 in residential settings but there are other states who have IMD exclusion waivers and our managed care organizations are doing some work with IMD accomplished through legislation passed several years ago. Dr. Edney shared that he has been speaking with the Medicaid Commissioner in West Virginia along with Indiana.
  - Dr. Edney said data from other states could help inform prior to any changes but several states have done this. He suggested looking at how it would work for Mississippi.
  - Dr. Reeves said this should be taken up for further discussion.
- Dr. Reeves asked the medical directors from Magnolia and Molina about antipsychotic medication prescribing requirements for children, specifically ICD-10 diagnosis code requirements for coverage. Dr. Joiner (Molina) and Dr. Erwin (Magnolia) offered additional information and clarification as to laboratory test coverage requirements when tests are needed when prescribing certain medications.
- Mr. Lee Bond discussed opportunities to address smoking cessation and volunteered to create and oversee a subcommittee to look closer at the issue including awareness campaigns to move the needle on tobacco cessation. Mr. Bond will reach out to interested MCAC members and others to begin a subcommittee.

- Dr. Reeves asked Phaedre Cole for an update on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) model discussed in previous MCAC meetings. Ms. Cole explained CCBHC is a delivery model for behavioral services that is integrated care with improved outcomes and efficiencies. There was a recent bill passed by congress with funding to expand the CCBHC model to ten additional states that should be released in October. She plans to work with Medicaid and will get more information to the Committee about applying for those funds. Wil Ervin said the Division would be happy to continue those conversations.
- Benny Hubbard asked Wil Ervin for an update on provider reimbursement related to the removal of the rate freeze. Wil shared the rate freeze removal for Nursing facilities was effective May 1 while all the other rate freeze removals were effective July 1. The State Plan Amendments to remove the freeze have been submitted to CMS and are pending at this time. Wil agreed to find out the status of the nursing home payments and will follow up with Mr. Hubbard.
- Phaedre Cole asked about medication rates affected by the rate freeze. Wil explained his understanding that those will not need to be rebilled but would be reprocessed by the Division. He explained the Division's intent is to go back to 2021 and adjust the rates accordingly with the date to be determined.
- Dr. Long asked when or if the next MCAC meeting should be planned to include upcoming legislative considerations. The Committee members discussed briefly and decided to have the next meeting in late October.

**VI. Next Meeting – The next meeting is planned for Friday, October 28, 2022, at 1:00pm.** (later changed to October 21, 2022)

**VII. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn- Dr. Long*

*Second- Benny Hubbard*

*Motion to adjourn was approved unanimously*