

Dental Policy Review Committee Members Present

James Thommes, Dental Director DentaQuest of Illinois
Henry Lotsof, Avesis
Mary Margaret Looker, Central Counties Health Centers
Mary Pat Burgess, Chicago Department of Public Health
Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health
Gregory Dietz, Children's Center for Dentistry
Kathy J. Shafer, Southern Illinois University
Jorelle R. Alexander, Cook County Health & Hospitals System
Jason Grinter, Onsite Dental
Danny Hanna, University of Illinois (UIC)
Cyrus Oates, Oates Dental
Dave Marsh, Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS)

Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present

Randall Markarian, Markarian Orthodontics

HFS Staff Present

Christina McCutchan (BPAS), Shelly Defrates (BPAS)

DentaQuest Staff Present

Aaron Washburn, Kelly Pulliam

Interested Parties

Jana West, Hancock County Dental

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Christina McCutchan, Dental Manager for Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan explained the procedure for the meeting due to being done through Web Ex.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan reminded attendees that the committee is comprised of selected board members that are committed to share their expertise, review policy and procedures, express challenges they are experiencing and make recommendations to the Department to positively impact the health of our dental members. She reminded attendees that this committee is not a managed care committee and will only deal with fee-for-service issues.

II. Introductions

Mrs. Christina McCutchan did roll call of committee board members, HFS staff and DentaQuest staff.

III. Old Business

February 5, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Christina McCutchan announced that the last meeting scheduled for April 15, 2020, was cancelled due to COVID. She asked if any board members had any comments or opposition to posting the February 5, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Hana stated that he is marked as absence and he was present at the February 5, 2020 meeting. There were no other changes so Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated the update would be made and the revised minutes posted.

IV. New Business

Administrative Announcements

Mrs. Christina McCutchan announced the following administrative changes:

- Mr. Doug Elwell's, HFS previous Medicaid Administrator, last day was February 14, 2020 and now Mrs. Kelly Cunningham is our interim Medicaid Director.
- Ms. Teresa Flesch has accepted the Deputy Administrator of Operations position, which is over the Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services (BPAS).
- Mr. Mark Huston has returned to his position in Bureau of Claims Processing, so Susie Brown is the new interim Bureau Chief of Hospital and Provider Services (otherwise known as IMPACT or Provider Enrollment).
- Jose Jimenez has been hired as the Bureau Chief of BPAS starting July 1, 2020, and Ms. Edna Canas who was acting BPAS Bureau Chief has returned to her previous position in BPAS.
- Ms. Desirey Ackermann has started with BPAS on July 1, 2020 and will be working in several areas in BPAS, including dental.

Dental Updates

COVID

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that the Department has all COVID-19 Public Health Emergency information on our website, which included TeleDentistry information.

COVID-19 PROVIDER RELIEF FUND

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that on June 12th and an update on July 7th, the Department issued notices regarding the Opportunity for Medicaid and CHIP providers to apply for COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund efforts from the federal government.

A webinar took place on 07/08/20 and Mrs. Christina McCutchan reminded board members and interested parties that providers, including dental providers, must submit their gross revenues for CY 2017, 2018 or 2019 by Monday, July 20, 2020. She also stated that many dental providers had issues with the portal including having their TINs recognized.

Dr. Jason Grinter stated he is still waiting on a response but has been assured that as long as providers have begun the application by July 20, 2020, they would not be excluded from the funding.

Dr. Kathy Shaffer stated that she hadn't heard anything yet but will be checking with SIU dental school administration on status.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the board that the Department has sent all HRSA required information for dental providers.

DCFS MCO Move

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that on February 1, 2020, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Former Youth in Care children and the Special Needs children populations were moved into HealthChoice Illinois.

DCFS Current Youth in Care is scheduled to move into HealthChoice Illinois on September 1, 2020.

NPI and Enrollment

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that on July 8, 2020, a provider notice was issued informing providers that the Department will resume editing to ensure Nation Provider Identifiers (NPIs) are valid and that providers are enrolled with the Department starting August 1, 2020. The Department had requested a waiver from Federal CMS to postpone this due to the COVID-19 emergency however it was not approved.

Dental Office Reference Manual (DORM)

Mrs. Christina McCutchan announced that the revised DORM was finally reissued on June 5, 2020. Any updates or changes that might need to be made should be sent to HFS.Dental@illinois.gov

Dental Prior Approval Extensions

Mrs. Christina McCutchan announced that on June 15, 2020, a provider notice was released informing dental providers that any Prior Approval ending prior to June 1, 2020, would be automatically extended 6 months due to COVID-19.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the board that a provider notice went out on July 13, 2020, stating that Federal and State regulations prohibit providers from charging Medicaid patients for PPE. The maximum amount a provider can charge is what is listed on the fee schedule, as PPE is considered a part of a service. PPE is not a separate service therefore is not a non-covered service, so providers cannot bill the participant for PPE separately.

Dr. Jason Grinter stated that the email sent wasn't a request about charging patient but more of a request and concern about the increased capital expenses, decrease in number of patients by 30% to 40 %. As providers try to follow the guidelines, leaving rooms empty for 15 minutes between patient and need for more disposal gowns, N95 respirators and other PPE, it is getting more difficult for providers to see Medicaid patients. Providers would like the Department to consider raising dental reimbursement rates or to pay the American Dental Association (ADA) recommended code of D1999 which has been adopted by the ADA.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan stressed the importance of PPE for not only patients, but also the providers and employees.

Mr. Dave Marsh from the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) stated they are looking at every option to increase rates for PPE, including working with legislative leaders.

Dr. Jason Grinter suggested a meeting with Department administration and board members to explain what the situation dental providers are facing because of COVID. Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that she would set up a meeting to discuss with new Bureau Chief of BPAS, Mr. Jose Jimenez.

Dr. Kathy Shafer, Dr. Henry Lotsof, Dr. Danny Hanna and Dr. Mona VanKanegan all stated anything that can be done to help would be greatly appreciated.

Dr. Cyrus Oates asked if dental providers are not able to get an increase in dental rates, could dental providers be supplied with PPE? Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that she would ask Department administration.

Dental Policy Review Committee Board Updates

Mrs. Christina McCutchan thanked all board members that completed the 2019 Ethics Training and 2019 Sexual Harassment Trainings and asked if any member hadn't completed the 2019 Sexual Harassment Trainings to do so immediately as the 2020 Ethics Training and the 2020 Sexual Harassment Prevention Training will be coming soon.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the board that Ms. Pam Cuffle is no longer with the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) and that Mr. Eric Larsen, Executive Director of ISDS) will be the committee member for ISDS. Mr. Larsen couldn't participate today so will have him introduce himself at the next meeting.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) – Division of Oral Health (DOH) Updates

School Exam Requirement

Dr. Mona VanKanegan wanted to provider clarification on the school dental examination requirement. Governor Pritzker signed Public Act 101-0643 which amends the school code related to the dental exam that a school may not withhold a child's a report card during a school year in which the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

2018-2019 Healthy Smiles Healthy Growth Data

Dr. Mona VanKanegan informed the committee that IDPH has posted the 2018 – 2019 Healthy Smiles Healthy Growth report on the IDPH website.

All Kids School Program Update

Dr. Mona VanKanegan stressed her concern regarding the All Kids School Based Oral health and preventive services program going forward due to COVID-19 stating that IDPH wants to ensure that the School program is safe for children, teachers and administration staff. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released guidance to schools limiting visitors and do not know if dental, vision and hearing screeners are included in the limit. IDPH will continue to work with ISBE on clarification.

IDPH is also awaiting guidance from the CDC. The CDC leaders across the regions are having a meeting on guidance for School Based Oral Health services. Dr. Mona VanKanegan extended invitation to board members to be on the call.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan verified that we are in a holding pattern until more information is provided by both ISBE and the CDC.

Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

Ms. Mary Pat Burgess was asked by CPS to provide a logic model to determine how to move forward with the All Kids School Program during the COVID pandemic, so she developed and sent materials to board members for review and input.

Dr. Henry Lotsof stated that he is not sure how we could start program before January 2021 with current knowledge of the pandemic. Ms. Mary Pat Burgess agreed and stated that CDPH Dental doesn't normally start until January, so that wouldn't be an issue.

Dr. Mary Margaret Looker stated that she understands what Ms. Mary Pat Burgess is saying but the logistics of keeping everybody safe is going to be difficult as we don't want to spread the virus throughout multiple schools. She also noted that parents and schools might be reluctant.

Dr. Gregory Dietz stated that he personally believes that school services can be provided just as safely in school as in the office setting provided that their ample space for distancing and set up.

Dr. Kathy Shafer's main concern was safety and should be the most important key when deciding whether or not to go back into the schools. It will be an issue with parents and for the people working in the schools.

Dr. Jason Grinter stated that the program might be able to be done on a geographically based model, depending on the school district stressing that it is up to the school dental providers to keep the standards high. He further stated that he has received positive feedback from the Rockford schools and Freeport schools wants to have tentative dates for the school program, just need to make sure parents know the risks and benefits before signing the consent, which Ms. Mary Pat Burgess's model addresses.

Dr. Danny Hanna fully supports going back into schools with the safety precautions mentioned by Ms. Mary Pat Burgess.

Dr. Cyrus Oates stated that in Rockford he is hoping to be in the district in some form. Agrees with Ms. Mary Pat Burgess the we need to operate a safely and efficiently and believes we need to be in the district in some type of form. Agrees that once we have missed a year in the schools, it will be hard to bring program back. Additionally, he believes that with the economic downturn, there will be more individuals in need and less services available.

Dr. James Thommes agreed we need to get back into the schools safely and efficiently because if we lose a year, we will probably lose the school program.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan stated the plan was well thought out and appreciated the comprehensiveness of it, including the processes to limit aerosols including using glass isomer sealants.

Ms. Mary Pat Burgess summarized by telling board members that CPS has not provided any guidance yet as to when or how CPS will be proceeding this year, however there is a meeting in the upcoming week, so will hopefully know more soon. As for the proposal, it will be sent to CPS at the end of the week and thanked everyone for their comments.

CDT Codes

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that Dr. Kathy Shafer had asked to discuss some commonly used pediatric dentistry codes (D1550, D2920, D2921 and D9920) that are not being used because they are currently not covered in the Medicaid program.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the board that D2920, recement a stainless-steel crown, is currently a covered service for all and pays at \$23.50.

The board had discussion on the following CDT Codes and made the following recommendations:

- D1550, Recementation of a space maintainer, has been replaced by D1551 recementation of a space maintainer maxillary, D1552 recementation of a space maintainer mandibular and D1553 recementation of a space maintainer per Quadrant. The board made a recommendation to cover D1551, D1552 and D1553 at a rate of \$23.50 with the same benefit limitations as D2920 Recement Crown.
- D2921, Reattachment of a fractured tooth. This is billed when a child fractures part of an anterior tooth and the piece is bonded back on rather than building the tooth up in composite. The board made a recommendation to cover D2921 at a rate of \$61.80 with the benefit limitations of one per 12 month per tooth not billable within 6 months of D2335 Resin-Based Composite – 4 + Surface or involving Incisal Angle Anterior.
- D9920, Medical Immobilization/Protective Stabilization. This is billed when a papoose board is used. Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that this service is covered under EPSDT. There was discussion that this service can be provided with either a wrap or board. The board made a recommendation to cover D9920 Medical Immobilization/Protective Stabilization at a rate of \$25.00 once per date of service.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that she would bring this recommendation to the Department's administration and will have a decision at the next board meeting.

Specialty Referrals

Dr. Mary Margaret Looker stated she has a serious issue regarding referrals stating that they currently do not have an pediatric office to refer clients to and if we they are able to track somebody down that is able to provide the service, the parents are having to travel 3 to 4 hours for services that her FQHC cannot cover.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked the board if they had any ideas on how to recruit specialty providers, especially in the central region of the state.

Dr. Gregory Dietz asked if there could be a rate increase for specialists, stating that most children referred need hospital care which brings up another issue of reimbursement on the medical side. Because reimbursement is so low for anesthesia, hospitals are limiting the amount of dental cases they will accept.

Dr. Jorelle Alexander added that Cook county does have a pediatric dentist but because of the shortage of specialists, we do have general dentists that are willing to see kids and sometimes most of the time is spent with behavioral issues. We might want to address helping with behavioral management to help general dentist not do as many referrals out by giving more education or resources to the offices to be able to treat the member.

Dr. James Thommes agreed with Dr. Jorelle Alexander stating that a lot of these children end up in hospital often for behavior issues, so asking if there is an alternative to an increase in fee schedule for pediatric dental providers, like an incentive to see these patients in the office rather than referring to a hospital? Maybe an office incentive where you sign up and then for every patient, that is referred to you that you see in office as opposed to in hospital, you could take some of those potential savings from the hospital cases. Move the curve a little bit to in office treatment then maybe you wouldn't need fee schedule rate increase.

Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) Update

Legislation

Mr. Dave Marsh represented ISDS at this meeting and provided an update on ISDS legislation.

- **HB4184/SB2493** deals with increasing a specific group of Medicaid dental service was put forward by our access to care committee and was based off the State of Illinois Employees Dental Rates.
- **SB2484** will probably be brought back in fall veto and deals with anesthetics charges in conjunction with dental care that is provided to an individual in a hospital or an ambulatory surgical treatment center.

- **SB2520** deals with School Based Dental Program by removing the \$25,000 charge that Chicago Public Schools and a focus on creating a dental home. Dave thanked CPS for agreeing to remove the charge and is working with CPS, local health departments and FQHCs to create a dental home model before the next session.

Ms. Mary Pat Burgess would like the following added to the minutes:
It should be noted that the City of Chicago Health Department was responsible for the removal of the \$25,000 charge that Dave Marsh referred to in his statement. Chicago Public Schools (CPS) was not involved in the decision.

- ISDS will be working to add teledentistry language and updating COVID and Flu vaccine language to the Dental Practice Act for dentists.

Mr. Dave Marsh also reported that ISDS is worried about PPE reimbursement because providers have an influx of patients and the program could lose providers due to the increase in PPE costs.

V. Open Discussion

Before opening the floor up to open discussion, Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if any of the board members had anything else to discuss.

Dr. Danny Hanna asked about when the next MCO dental meetings will be. Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the committee that the MCO dental meetings have been discontinued until there are issues to discuss. If anyone has issues that need to be dealt with they can either contact Mrs. Christina McCutchan or email HFS.Dental@illinois.gov

Ms. Jana West from Hancock County Local Health Department asked if the Department has considered covering D1110 Prophylaxis for Adults 21 years and older twice a year instead of just once per year. Dr. Danny Hanna recommended paying twice a year with all other benefit limitation that currently exist as well. MCOs are currently reimbursing two per year. Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that she would follow add to the other CDT code recommendations.

VI. Adjournment: Mrs. Christina McCutchan adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2020 at 1 pm.