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### **Public Education Subcommittee Meeting**

Thursday, October 1st, 2020 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

# Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Public Education Subcommittee meeting will be held using WebEx. At the scheduled time of the meeting please use the following link:

Public Education Subcommittee

Or use the Call-in Option <u>+1-312-535-8110,1338711862##</u> United States Toll (Chicago)

#### A few WebEx tips:

- You may use your computer's audio or the phone option for sound; in our experience the "Callme" option has the best sound quality.
- Use the "chat" function to communicate with the meeting host.
- If you wish to participate and have your name registered please send an email to veronica.achundia@illinois.gov

#### AGENDA

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2020
- 3. Feasibility Study Update (Illinois Public Act 101-0649)
- 4. CPS: Enrollment, Engagement and Utilization
- 5. Care Coordination Update
- 6. DHS Update
- 7. ABE, IES & Redetermination Update
- 8. Health Benefits for Immigrant Senior Program Update
- 9. Criminal Justice Update
- 10. Open Discussion and Announcement
- 11. Adjourn

This notice is also available online at: https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/About/BoardsandCommisions/MAC/News/Pages/default.aspx

#### DRAFT

## Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Public Education Subcommittee Final Meeting Minutes August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 401 S. Clinton Street, Chicago, Illinois 201 S. Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois

#### **Committee Members**

#### **HFS Staff**

Kathy Chan, Cook County Health Brittany Ward, Lurie Children's Hospital Sergio Obregon, CPS Erin Weir Lakhmani, Mathematica Policy Research Sherie Arriazola, Safer Foundation Nadeen Israel, AIDS Foundation of Chicago Sue Vega Alivio Medical Center Lynne Thomas Jane Longo Lauren Polite Margaret Dunne Sharice Bradford Robert Mendonsa Arvind Goyal Veronica Archundia Laura Phelan Melissa Black Elizabeth Nelson Jose Villegas

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Connie Schiele, HSTP

#### **Interested Parties**

Paula Campbell, IPHCA Andrea Kovach, Shriver Center on Poverty Law Amber Kirchhoff, Illinois Primary Care Association Heather Holberg, CountyCare Stephani Becker, Shriver Center on Poverty Law Paula Allen-Meares, University of Illinois Michele Lindstrom, University of Illinois Martha Jarmuz, Choices CCS Rose Dunaway, Kindred at Home Angela Boley, Land of Lincoln Legal Aid Yariela Ramirez Beccue, UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children David Hurter, AMITA Health Laurie Cohen, The Civic Federation Jill Havden, Meridian Monica Cella, Department of Pediatrics UIC Nelson Soltman. Dan Rabbitt, Heartland Alliance Dave Lecik, Department on Aging Robin Lavender, DuPage Health Graciela Guzman, Healthy Illinois Megan Carter, Legal Council for Health Justice Elizabeth Weber, CountyCare Brittani Provost, UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children Elizabeth Berendsen, City of Chicago Andrea Kovach, Shriver Center on Poverty Law Kristin Hartsaw, DuPage Federation on Humans Services Reform Kimberly Burke, Lake County Health Department Robin Lavender, DuPage County Health Department

DHS Staff

Leslie Cully

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Ashley Galante, Wellcare

Patrick Hostert, Illinois House of Representatives (Democratic Research/Appropriation Staff) Dani Mendez, Illinois House of Representatives (Democratic Research/Appropriation Staff) Jamie Weber, Avesis Luvia Quiñones, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights Grecia Villegas, UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children Viviana Rodriguez, University of Illinois Hospital & Health Science System Kathye Gorosh, AIDS Foundation Chicago Marina Kurakin, Legal Council for Health Justice Caroline Chapman, Legal Council for Health Justice Timothy S. Jackson, AIDS Foundation Samantha Hollis, Illinois Health and Hospital Association Susan Gaines, IPHCA

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# 1. Introduction:

Chairperson Kathy Chan opened the meeting indicating that due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting would be held by conference call only. She provided instructions to participants about how to mute and un-mute their lines. She noted that the meeting was being recorded and then conducted roll-call. Committee members present were: Brittany Ward, Sergio Obregon, Nadeen Israel, Erin Weir, Kathy Chan, Sue Vega. One member Connie Schiele, was absent. Ms. Chan asked interested parties to send an email to <u>veronica.archundia@illinois.gov</u> to properly record their participation.

# 2. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2020:

Kathy Chan asked for a correction to Stephani Becker's name with this motion, the April 2, 2020 minutes were approved. Nadeen Israel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Brittany Ward. The meeting minutes were approved with a vote of six members in favor, zero opposed, and one member absent.

# 3. Health Literacy Update:

Kathy Chan introduced Dr. Paula Allen-Meares who is The Executive Director at the Office of Health Literacy and a professor at The College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Last May, she had a conversation with Director Theresa Eagleson, Jane Longo, and Laura Phelan regarding some of the initiatives at the Office of Health Literacy at UIC. <u>https://chicago.medicine.uic.edu/office-of-health-literacy/</u>

Dr. Allen-Meares worked with an organization called Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS) and a company called "321 FastDraw" in the creation of a video on the topic of heath literacy. <u>https://321fastdraw.com/vr/Health-Literacy-A-VR-Journey.html</u>

The video was funded by a federal grant awarded to FLPPS in order to train healthcare providers in the state of New York with the objective of reducing Medicaid expenditure by 20% over a five-year period. In the fall of 2020, health care providers and those working in human services will be trained using these evidence-based practices to promote health literacy among the most vulnerable populations, as well as to promote better patient outcomes.

Dr. Allen-Meares said that, in 2003, a study found that 12% of the United States population did not possess higher level health literacy skills. Therefore, in order to promote better outcomes for the targeted patient communities, it was deemed necessary to deal with issues of equity of African American and Latinos affected by the current pandemic in the United States. As a member of the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Allen-Meares has participated in many conversations around the United States about

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bringing more diverse populations into clinical trials. Some of these conversations have involved the development of a taskforces and committees to promote health literacy and to deepen cultural understanding. This taskforce has recognized the necessity of addressing health disparities with evidence strategies in order to help promote health literacy particularly with underrepresented populations.

In her conversation with Director Eagleson, Dr. Allen-Meares specifically noted the Public Education Subcommittee mandate:

"The Public Education Subcommittee is established to advise the Medicaid Advisory Committee concerning materials and methods for informing individuals about health benefits available under the Department of Healthcare and Family Service's medical programs."

Dr. Allen-Meares said that aspects of this vision particularly resonate with her work regarding the UIC Health System. The conversation of the health literacy may be important in order to fulfill the vision of this committee and better implement the evidence-based practices that can positively impact the most vulnerable populations. Dr. Allen-Meares asked for any relative comments to please be sent to <u>pameares@uic.edu</u>

## 4. Care Coordination:

Robert Mendonsa told the group that YouthCare for DCFS Youth in Care is scheduled to be rolled out on September 1st, 2020. The DCFS youth will be automatically enrolled in the YouthCare health plan; if anyone needs to be in another plan, the guardian and DCFS, on a case-by-case basis, can submit a request to transfer the recipient to another plan. With YouthCare, DCFS Youth in Care will receive additional benefits such as care coordination for behavioral health needs, including trauma-informed care. YouthCare has an open network until February 28, 2021, which means provider claims for covered Medicaid services will be paid. HFS published a provider notice following which is available at: <a href="https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn200803a.aspx">https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn200803a.aspx</a>

Mr. Mendonsa told the group that MMAI will go state-wide on July 1st, 2021.

For HealthChoice IL members who were previously in NextLevel have been transferred to Meridian. Robert clarified that this is not an acquisition, instead, it is a transfer of membership which took effect beginning July 1st, 2020. He noted that Next Level Health remains responsible for all claims and services provided through June 30, 2020. Also, provider relations remain in place through the rest of this calendar year or as long as it is necessary.

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**MCO Acquisitions** - There has been a lot of activity in terms of other acquisitions; Centene, parent company to IlliniCare (and therefore, YouthCare) purchased Meridian. A requirement of that purchase was that Centene had to sell the IlliniCare HealthChoice Illinois product, which it did – to CVS/Aetna. YouthCare and Illincare's MMAI product stayed with Centene. The name of IlliniCare will be changing to Aetna Better Health of Illinois sometime before the end of the calendar year to reflect that purchase., As a result, the Medicaid program in the state of Illinois now has four state-wide plans: Aetna Better Health of Illinois, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Meridian Health, and Molina Healthcare, and one Cook County only plan, CountyCare.

**P4P** - HFS' annual Pay-for-Performance Program is 1.5% of capitation, which is withheld and earned back if performance measures are met. Because of the needs created by the COVID-19 public health emergency, there have been excessive challenges in terms of meeting metrics. HFS has returned withhold funds to plans and asked them to spend the funds to assist Medicaid beneficiaries, as well to help maintain an investment in community services, support affected providers and help decrease heath disparities and inequities during this time of great need. Plans have submitted spending proposals. HFS is monitoring these investments closely.

**IHHs** - Brittany Ward asked for an update related to Integrated Health Homes. Robert Mendonsa said that HFS is making some changes to the program. The Director has asked for a review of the HFS vision and that some changes to the program are being made. He said, no new dates have been scheduled for the IHH Town Hall Webinars; updates will be announced on the HFS website.

Sherie Arriazola asked, will IlliniCare be "grandfathered" into Aetna and if providers who have contracts with Aetna will have to do anything. Robert Mendonsa said it will be a seamless process and that members do not need to do anything; it is just a name change.

Sergio Obregon asked if the MCO plans to use the withhold funds are available to the public and Mr. Mendonsa indicated that a summary of these investments could be provided at the next meeting. Sergio Obregon said that with the Chicago Public Schools announcing an all-remote schedule for the first quarter of the 2020 -2021 school year, it would be helpful to know how to work with MCOs and to determine if withhold funds could be used to address needs of children. Dan Rabbitt echoed Sergio's request to make the withholding investment plans public and posted on the HFS website. Mr. Mendonsa said that this is something which will be taken into consideration during the next meeting.

# 5. DHS Update:

Leslie Cully said 54 of the 69 Family Community Resources Centers (FCRCs) have reopened but currently operating with less than 20% of the staff members at these offices.

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A "triage" process of assessing clients' needs at the door has been adopted in order to minimize the time they have to wait in the lobby. There has also been efficiency achieved through remote work. DHS has put protocols in place that help local offices receive calls and fax communications. Voice mails and faxes are being forwarded to state workers' emails in order to allow caseworkers to quickly respond while working from home. Case workers are conducting phone interviews and responding to client inquires, and phone calls are being routed from the FCRCs to be addressed by caseworkers. Clients are encouraged to call the ABE Call Center for assistance. The FCRC staffs are also providing the necessary assistance to clients whose redeterminations are incomplete, either because signatures or documentation is missing so they can comply with requirements and be granted continuity with respect to their benefits.

Leslie Cully said that about 40% of eligible families have not applied for Corona Virus-19 Pandemic (P-EBT) assistance. <u>https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=124142</u> Work is currently being done with individual districts to get the word out to families regarding this support. DHS has extended the application date line and provided the opportunity to submit an application until August 31st. DHS has focused its efforts upon reaching out to families which may be able to qualify for the P-EBT program. Advocates are doing marketing to get the word out to the community so that more people can take advantage of this benefit. It is important to keep in mind that no additional requirements or verifications are needed. This is a program that provides additional benefits to households with children who normally would have received free/reduced cost lunches at schools or would be getting meals through active SNAP benefits. DHS is focusing its efforts on encouraging these families to submit applications and visit the DHS website for more information. Please follow this link for more information:

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) SNAP Benefits (PDF) Beneficios de SNAP Pandemic EBT (Spanish)

### 6. ABE, IES & Redetermination Update

**Newborn adds** - Margaret Dunne reported, in response to an inquiry from Nadeen Israel at the June Meeting, all mailed, faxed, and emailed birth reports are now entirely up to date, with no backlog, and these types of submissions are being processed daily as they are received by the Newborn Unit.

There has been a total of 45,185 newborn birth report submissions through the ABE Provider Portal and MMC. Submissions that have been successfully added to the Mother's case is at 81 % for the Provider Portal (excluding backlog month) and 93% for MMC. Margaret reported that this is a significant increase in successful additions and credits this to careful data entry by hospital staff. HFS worked with staff at hospitals

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identifying problems and increasing successes. The two most common exceptions continue to be "Newborn Already Exists" at around 35% and "Case Unknown" at about 56%. The exceptions, those reports not added to cases, are sent to the local office if an office can be identified, or the All Kids Office for those exceptions where an office cannot be identified. The backlog in the All Kids Unit is about three months, but this backlog represents some submissions that do not, in fact, have existing cases.

Jane Longo directed the attention of the committee members to the report published on the HFS website that was included within the agenda and meeting materials under the title "Summary CAP Data," She said that she was happy to announce that the state has made substantial progress in reducing the number of applications which are older than 45 days. In comparison, at the end of 2019, there had been 147,000 applications. Many of these applications were made for COVID-19, and, in order to avoid taking an adverse action during the pandemic, the State no longer is processing redeterminations for medical. The State continues accepting client attestation for income, incurred medical expenses, residency, disability, and insured status. Ms. Longo said that the State continues to extend renewal by one month at a time. At this moment, HFS cannot predict when normal redeterminations will resume and will continue to extend renewals during the public health emergency as long as the mandate for maintenance of effort remains in place from Congress. With respect to ex-parte renewal, 37% of those who would had been up for renewal in June were extended.

Jane Longo indicated that, as recently announced by the federal government, the pandemic unemployment compensation of an additional \$600 per week was not counted for Medicaid, but it is counted as income for SNAP. She noted that the loss of this benefit does not make anyone newly eligible for Medicaid, so she does not expect a huge increase in this number.

**Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors** – Jane Longo presented, this new eligibility group which is authorized through the HB357 (Budget Implementation Bill or BIMP). This is intended for non-citizen seniors who are ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status and who have incomes at or below 100% FPL. HFS is currently working with DHS, DOIT, and Deloitte to make necessary system changes in the IES (Integrated Eligibility System.) Interested individuals should apply after December 1st, 2020, not before this date, as the system changes to process applications will only be available after this date. September will be the earliest date for backdate coverage. HFS will be reviewing the applications of those individuals who applied this year and were denied due to not meeting citizenship or immigration requirements. DHS is planning to share this information with the Welcoming Centers and provide assistance. After December 1st, anyone who applies for emergency medical assistance who meets the criteria will be reviewed for this new coverage.

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After the COVID-19 emergency, a resource (or asset) test will apply \$2,000 for a household of one, \$3,000 for a household of two, plus \$50 for each additional household member will apply. Seniors in the program whose countable income or resources are above the limit may qualify for spend down. Applicants can submit an application online through ABE, by phone at the ABE Customer Call Center, by mail, or at the DHS Welcoming Centers. The Immigrant Family Resource Program will provide application assistance as well. There will not be cost-sharing, premiums, or co-payments. It is expected that thousands of individuals will be eligible for the program. HFS is considering whether these clients will enroll in MCOs or receive care through Fee-For-Service.

Erin Weir Lakhmani asked if nursing home services will be covered under the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors. Jane Longo said the benefits will not include Long Term Care or nursing facility care but will include home and community-based services. In addition, Erin asked, if will this population be subject to state recovery. Lynne Thomas said, she will need to get back to the committee regarding this inquiry. She added that, after December 1st, for anyone who is 65 years of age or older and applies for emergency medical assistance, the system will process the request and also assess whether or not the person qualifies for this program.

Amber Kirchhoff asked if there has been any thought given to accepting paper applications now. Jane Longo answered that HFS does not see any viable way to have a manual system ready before December 1st. HFS has looked at how other programs have come online, and it was determined that the use of online applications is the quickest way to have a system up and running. However, HFS will implement COVID-19 conditions that qualify people for Emergency Medical, so that should help reduce some barriers to care.

Amber Kirchhoff inquired about the strategy for sharing information with community organizations, and Jane said that HFS is working on a brochure for potential applicants.

Dan Rabbitt asked if there are updated Medicaid enrollment numbers. Jane Longo responded that, as of June 2020, there were over three million people in Illinois who were enrolled in Medicaid, which is about a 4% growth since February. Mr. Rabbitt asked if HFS will be posting this information?

Kathy Chan asked when reimbursement for COVID testing for the uninsured will be available. Jane Longo replied that HFS expects to have a provider portal up and running during the month of October through which claims can be submitted.

Amber Kirchhoff asked what documentation will be necessary to apply for Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors. Jane Longo said it will be similar to what is required for Medicaid.

Viviana Rodriguez asked if presumptive eligibility will be allowed for the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors. Jane Longo responded no, it will not.

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Committee members were informed about new features in the Identity Proofing Form. Manual ID Proofing requests should be sure to be returned to the address on the form which is linked in the agenda and below:

https://www.dhs.state.il.us/onenetlibrary/12/documents/Forms/IL444-3610.pdf

These changes were made in an effort to expedite ID Proofing for clients. It will now be possible to submit the form and supporting documentation by sending a fax to (217) 557-1370. DHS staff members are processing the forms as soon as they receive them. The fax converts to an email which is then picked up by DHS staff members who are dedicated to the process of ID proofing. The form also allows for a response by email, if requested on page two of the form.

The Manage My Case, appeals, FFM apps received, and ID Proofing report was provided along with the meeting materials.

# 7. Criminal Justice Update:

Lynne Thomas reported that HFS has published a provider notice related to incarcerated individuals who are being released from the Illinois Department of Corrections. The notice explains the automated process through which full medical benefits are restored upon release from a correctional facility. Community providers can request that the restriction be lifted in cases where the automated process has not yet occurred, for more details, follow this link <a href="https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn200722a.aspx">https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn200722a.aspx</a>

Sherie Arriazola said that there have been some cases in which the restriction has not been lifted in a timely manner. Lynne Thomas asked her to provide examples of cases so HFS can investigate these occurrences and implement corrective action.

Chairperson Kathy Chan thanked HFS for the provider notice and Sherie Arriazola for her work, effort, and dedication to bring to this committee's attention the needs of individuals who, upon discharge, are making efforts to return to their communities and receive support so they can obtain full medical coverage as well as access to treatment resources which can support reintegration.

# 8. Open Discussion and Announcements:

Kathy Chan thanked HFS staff members for their efforts in making it possible for the new Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program to become a reality, as Illinois will become the first state in the nation to offer this benefit to thousands of potentially eligible seniors. She said that community members are looking forward to receiving further

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information regarding the program. Kathy also said the Public Education Subcommittee would appreciate an opportunity to review and provide feedback.

**Public Charge** - Andrea Kovach said that, on July 29, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York issued an injunction blocking the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) from enforcing the Trump administration's new public charge rule during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that the USCIS will apply the 1999 public charge guidelines:

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/1999/05/26/99-13202/field-guidance-on-deportabilityand-inadmissibility-on-public-charge-grounds

Ms. Kovach said that it is expected that the Trump administration will try to overturn this new injunction. For anyone interested in learning more the latest developments of this ruling, as well as to be part of the Protecting Immigrant Families-Illinois Coalition, please contact Andrea at: <u>andreakovach@povertylaw.org</u>

# 9. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 1st, 2020, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

### ABE Manage My Case, Appeals, and FFM stats For MAC Public Education Subcommittee Cumulative, as of 09/11/2020

	9/11/20	7/23/20	5/21/20	02/02/20	11/25/19	9/23/19	7/29/19	5/23/19	4/3/19	7/31/18
ABE MMC Accounts	1,256,607	1,188,838	1,128,847	974,179	902,599	836,178	747,236	702,833	643,018	329,244
Linked										
Renew My Benefits	356,717	339,810	327,998	294,736	272,015	252,648	232,669	209,483	193,446	97,679
Report My Changes	313,323	290,726	269,498	225,736	206,154	187,361	169,956	151,150	136,784	63,762
Program Adds	147,297	133,738	123,945	95,625	86,564	78,096	70,302	61,447	54,621	22,908
Member Adds	32,916	31,834	30,801	28,492	26,907	24,683	22,495	20,116	18,545	9,753
Mid-Point Reports	203,399	182,324	176,435	158,350	139,426	125,304	112,567	98,207	88,057	34,357
Appeals submitted	85,860	81,220	76,477	63,349	59,124	54,067	49,360	43,935	39,974	NA
FFM cases received	380,645	Not	354,714	326,316	269,289	234,257	226,185	215,901	208,047	114,885
since 11/17		available								
Cumulative count of people successfully ID proofed through the State	3,997	3,754	3,481	2,865	2,399	1,918	1,512	959	449	NA

MMC rolled out on 11/01/2017







