

**Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
Public Education Subcommittee Meeting**

**June 23, 2011.**

**Approved Final Meeting Minutes**

401 S. Clinton Street, Chicago, Illinois  
201 S. Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois

**Committee Members Present**

Kathy Chan, IMCHC  
Susan Vega, Alivio Medical Center  
Suzanna Gonzalez, Mac Neal Hospital (via phone)  
Margaret Stapleton, Shriver Center (for John Bouman)  
Henry Taylor, Mile Square Health Center (via phone)  
Terri Gendel, Age Options (via phone)

**Committee Members Absent**

Courtney Hedderman, AARP  
Judy King, Consumer Advocate  
Tamela Milan, Westside Health Start  
Hardy Ware, East Side Health District  
Robyn Scott, CDPH

**Interested Parties**

Brittany Ward, Beacon Therapeutic  
Jessica Williams, CPS  
Jacqueline Gonzalez, CHHC  
Margaret Dunne, Beacon Therapeutic  
Deborah Mathews, DSCC  
Diane Montanez, Alivio Medical Center  
Lucero Cervantes, ICIRR  
Daisy Velazquez, ICIRR  
Nelson Soltman, Legal Assistance Foundation  
Maria Shabanova, Maximus (Health Services, Eastern  
Division)

**HFS Staff**

Jacqui Ellinger  
Donna Drew  
Amy Wallace  
Veronica Archundia

**DHS Staff**

Jennifer Hrycyna

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The MAC Public Education Subcommittee was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** Kathy Chan chaired the meeting. Attendees in Chicago and Springfield introduced themselves.
2. **Review of Minutes.** Margaret Dunne, from Beacon Therapeutic, recommended a change under the CHIPRA updates by revising the number of applications produced by her agency to 175. Under the same section, Jessica Williams, from Chicago Public Schools, recommended replacing the CFBU with the ECHO program. Following these changes, the May 12, 2011 minutes were approved.

3. **All Kids Income Cap**

Jacqui Ellinger, Deputy Administrator of the Medical Programs, indicated that the income cap of 300% FPL for the All Kids program will be implemented on July 1, 2011. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is working on a general notice to remind families whose children are currently enrolled at any of the Premium Levels 3 through 8 that they will be able to continue receiving benefits until 7/01/2012, at which time the All Kids insurance for children under these levels will end.

Sue Vega, from Alivio Medical Center, suggested that the department provide data regarding how many children will be affected, and their geographic distribution. Jacqui estimated that there may be fewer than 5,000 children affected by this policy. She indicated that, after August, 2011, HFS staff may be able to provide an estimate of this population at an upcoming meeting.

Margaret Stapleton, from the Shriver Center of Poverty Law, recommended for children denied All Kids coverage due to family's income above 300% FPL that the denial notice should advise them that insurance companies cannot deny them coverage. The notice should inform them to contact the Department of Insurance if they are refused coverage. Ms. Stapleton added the denial notice should include information regarding the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (IPXP).

4. **Residency and Income Verification**

Jacqui Ellinger stated that HFS has been informally notified by CMS, the Federal Agency which governs Medicaid, that the provisions of residency and income verifications, as indicated in the Medicaid Reform will be a violation of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) provisions as stipulated within the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Ms. Ellinger noted that HFS is anxiously waiting for the written letter which is expected to arrive soon. HFS is still hopeful that, within the next few months, it will be possible to start electronically verifying Illinois residency through the Secretary of State driver's license and state I.D. system. HFS would put some checks in place for those individuals whose residency cannot be verified electronically, so we could dispel the notion that there are no controls over entry into the program. She added that feedback from the federal government has not been received regarding the renewal process scheduled to be implemented beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011,

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Public Education Subcommittee Meeting**

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which may require active redetermination of all cases. This means that, if approved by the federal government, Illinois will eliminate passive redetermination.

**5. Update on Eligibility Verification Enrollment Process (EVE)**

Jacqui Ellinger indicated that Health Management Associates (HMA) is the vendor assisting HFS with the Illinois Health Insurance Exchange and the Eligibility Verification Enrollment (EVE) process. HMA recently made a presentation on the project to MAC, as follow up. Kathy Chan (IMCHC) and Andrea Kovach (Shriver Center) produced a summary of comments and suggestions generated during the meeting. Jacqui noted that the first phase of EVE development is expected to provide a very high level view and broad ideas regarding how to move forward. This work serves as a basis for HFS to request federal money to develop both the Health Benefits Exchange and a new electronic system to handle eligibility under healthcare reform.

On a related note, the Framework request for proposal was posted to the Illinois Procurement Bulletin. Ms. Ellinger noted the Framework is “an integrated enterprise benefits determination eligibility system that involves seven state agencies.” This reflects a major step toward integrating eligibility and service delivery for public benefits offered by the state. It is expected also to result in a robust system for care management. The Framework will facilitate the coordination of access, process, and delivery of community services without the need to apply to different agencies in order to receive an array of public benefits.

Susan Vega noted that a recent announcement on National Public Radio indicated that the Department of Human Services in Illinois was recognized for achieving high performance improvement. Jennifer Hrycyna, DHS, stated that Illinois was ranked as being the fourth best in SNAP payment accuracy, and third most improved in the country. She added that this accomplishment was possible as a result of strong staff commitment, training, and a control policy, for which Illinois was awarded \$3.4 million.

**6. Meeting Schedule**

Kathy Chan made a motion to meet every other month during the remainder of the year. It was agreed that these should be on 8/25/11 and 12/08/11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A third meeting will take place in October, the date will be determined based on availability. The motion was voted and approved.

**7. Open to the Committee**

Jacqueline Gonzalez, from the CHHC, asked for an update on the durable medical card. Jacqui Ellinger stated that this project is in the procurement process. HFS posted an invitation for the request for proposals, and several bids have been received. HFS staff is reviewing the proposals. Once a vendor is chosen, it is expected that the implementation of the durable medical card will begin in January of 2012.

Jennifer Hrycyna, DHS, shared that the 2012 budget is pending for the governor’s signature, which is expected to impact several programs.

**Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
Public Education Subcommittee Meeting**

**June 23, 2011.**

**Approved Final Meeting Minutes**

- The General Assistance (GA) or Transitional Assistance program will discontinue the payment grant beginning July 2011. The limited medical card will continue, but recipients will no longer receive the \$100 per month grant.
- The Funeral/Burial expenses program will end beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.
- The P3 Medical Assistance will no longer provide cash assistance beginning July 1, 2011.

Jacqui Ellinger provided a report on the following topics:

**All Kids Alert:** HFS will send a revised alert to AKAAs to address concerns raised by a previous alert sent in April, 2011, that was related to documentation requirements for noncitizens applying for the family health plans. She emphasized that the documentation requirements for noncitizens have not changed. The intent of the alert was to remind AKAAs of existing requirements that have long been in place for individuals using passports or visas to document their legal status. Ms. Ellinger added that the documentation of immigration status is required for the state to receive federal matching funds whenever possible.

**Undocumented Children:** As a result of audit findings and a clarification of state law, HFS anticipates a change in the way income is counted for all undocumented children when a stepparent with income lives in the home. A manual release will be issued to advise that regardless of where the family applies, if there is a stepparent in the home, his or her income will be counted in order to determine the child's eligibility.

**Customer Services:** The HFS customer hotline will assist the Department of Human Services in processing requests to update changes of address and phone numbers. Ms. Ellinger added that clients will continue to report changes of address to their case workers at the Family Community Resource Center (FCRC). The intent of this measure is to improve customer service and improve the accuracy of address information.

**Rulemaking:** HFS is in the process of reviewing several rules which govern eligibility for family health plans. There is a variety of reasons why these rules need to be changed, such as: the change in the name of the program from KidCare to All Kids, elimination of the three month penalty period for families whose children lose benefits due to the lack of premium payment, the cap limit of the All Kids program, the department's decision to keep operational consistency among all the family health plans to facilitate the process. HFS staff will make these rules revisions as a package.

**Web Redetermination:** HFS in conjunction with DHS has been working on a project to offer the completion of redeterminations on the Internet for most HFS and DHS cases. This new procedure will operate in a manner that is similar to the Phone System Interview. Clients will receive a notice with a pass code. The notice would indicate that there is a certain period of time that the clients will have to complete their redetermination through the Internet. The notice will give directions regarding how many days they have to provide the necessary

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documentation, when applicable. More details on this project will be provided during upcoming meetings.

**Civil Unions:** There is a new law recently approved in Illinois that authorize same sex and opposite sex couples to enter into a civil union. HFS staff is reviewing the implications of the new law since the partnership of a civil union is not recognized under federal Medicaid policy in accord with the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). New developments regarding these issues will be reported on during future meetings.

**8. Next meeting/adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The June 23, 2011 session was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.