

**South Dakota Department of Social Services  
Medicaid Tribal Consultation Meeting  
Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (CDT)  
AmericInn Hotel and Conference Center  
Ft. Pierre, SD**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Kirby Stone welcomed those in attendance.

**II. Prayer**

Ellen Durkin offered the prayer.

**III. Review Minutes and Updates from July 11, 2013 Meeting**

Kirby Stone asked if there were any changes to or questions about the minutes from the July 11, 2013 meeting.

There were no changes to or questions about the minutes.

**IV. Eligibility/MAGI update**

Carrie Johnson, Director of the Division of Economic Assistance, provided an update on eligibility changes associated with the affordable care act.

The Federally Facilitated Marketplace opened on October 1, 2013. South Dakota has not experienced a large volume of people accessing the website and contacting the Department of Social Services (DSS) with questions. The Division of Economic Assistance is waiting for a cumulative report of the number of South Dakotans who have accessed the FFM, but preliminary figures sit at less than 100. The FFM is available at <https://www.healthcare.gov/>.

Penny Kelly of the Division of Economic Assistance provided a live demonstration of the Division's new online application: The online application is accessible on the DSS website at <https://apps.sd.gov/ss36snap/web/Portal/Default.aspx>

The online application is available statewide and Lakota was recently added to the site as a language option in addition to English and Spanish.

DSS is alerting those recipients who are due for an eligibility renewal that they can renew online. The Division has already received many renewals submitted via the online application. The Division expects the number of new applications to increase as more people become aware of its availability. There is a survey at the end of the application and survey responses so far have been very positive.

The data in the online application is pre-populated for those who have already been determined eligible, so those completing renewals will only need to review their information and update the items that have changed. The application can also be saved without submitting if an applicant cannot complete in one time period. Additionally, the online application has a high level of security to protect the confidential information of users.

A question was asked about timeframes for approval of applications by DSS. Carrie explained the Department is federally mandated to make determinations within specific time frames. For example, the Department has 30 days to complete SNAP applications. Generally the Department's turnaround time is much faster than the federal regulations.

Penny also provided an update on the kiosks. While the kiosks have not yet been placed, they have been ordered the Department is looking forward to working with those sites where they will be located.

## **V. Medicaid Challenges and Opportunities Task Force Update**

Kirby Stone provided an update of the Medicaid Opportunities and Challenges Task Force established by the Governor during Legislature 2013. The Task Force was tasked with exploring the pros and cons of expanding Medicaid in South Dakota, not to make a recommendation about whether the state should expand Medicaid. The group met four times across the state, with two meetings in Pierre and one in each Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

The first three meetings provided opportunities for public comment. During the fourth meeting the Task Force reviewed the data presented at the other meetings and finalized the opportunities and challenges they identified.

The final report is available on the Governor's website at <http://sd.gov/governor/docs/Medicaid%20Task%20Force%20FINAL%2009-16-13.pdf>. The final report will be used by the Governor and the legislature as they discuss expansion during session 2014.

## **VI. Update on Medicaid State Plan Amendments**

Ann Schwartz provided an update on State Plan Amendments (SPAs).(handout). The Department currently has several SPAs under CMS review. The majority of the SPAs in process are related to the FY2014 legislative appropriation and the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Affordable Care Act (ACA) changes.

Carrie Johnson explained that MAGI requires the Department to base eligibility determinations on tax filer status versus the recipient's current income levels. This is a big change for the Department as a family may have two tax filers. Currently EA would look at the family as a whole, but will have to begin looking individually at each tax filer in January 2014.

The Department had been working very closely with CMS to provide additional information that would lead to a decision on each of the SPAs, but the federal shutdown has significantly impacted the State's ability to make additional progress.

The Medicaid State Plan and information about all proposed SPAs can be found on the Department's website at:  
<http://dss.sd.gov/medicalservices/medicaidstateplan/index.asp>.

## **VII. Health Home Initiative Update**

Kathi Mueller provided an update on the Health Home initiative (handouts). There are currently 109 Health Home sites with 566 designated providers. They include I.H.S. sites, Urban Indian Health in Sioux Falls and Pierre, FQHCs, CMHCs and other primacy care clinics.

More than 5,000 Medicaid recipients have been assigned to or have chosen a Health Home. Kathi indicated that providers can still submit applications to be Health Homes.

The Department continues to work through the State Plan Amendment (SPA) process with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The SPA was submitted to CMS in August and the State received a list of questions from CMS in late September.

## **VIII. Quarterly report of tribal Medicaid expenditures**

Kirby Stone reviewed the financial expenditure reports. There were no comments or questions.

At the last Tribal Consultation meeting, Kirby asked for suggestions for increasing participation at these meetings. At the suggestion of the group, two letters were sent to each tribal chairman asking them to appoint a person to attend the meetings. No responses were received.

Participants recommended that the Department reach out to the tribal health directors. Additionally, the representatives from the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board indicated that their Board meets quarterly and it may be a good opportunity for South Dakota Medicaid to meet face to face with the Tribal Chairmen.

**IX. Tribal Reports (from members present)**

Lower Brule – Ellen Durkin expressed appreciation for the information shared in the meeting and expressed that they are anxiously awaiting the kiosk that will be placed at their site.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Tribal Health – Jenny Jeffries stated that she expects their tribal health department will submit a Health Home application.

Cindy Washakie of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board indicated she was thankful for the information shared, particularly the information about provider enrollment.

**X. Next meeting**

Kirby announced that the next Tribal Consultation meeting will be January 9, 2014 at the Governor's Inn in Pierre. It will begin at 10 a.m.

Kirby directed the group to note all of the 2014 meeting dates on the agenda. All 2014 meetings will be held in Pierre beginning at 10 a.m.

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April 10, 2014  
July 10, 2014  
October 9, 2014

**XI. Adjournment.**