



**Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2024**

Attendees

Heather Petermann, Matthew Ballard, Ashley Lauing, Erik Nelson, Renae Hericks, Scott Kennedy, Misty Black Bear, Mary Johnle, Melanie Boetel, Eric Grocott, Clarissa Barnes, Mark Burket, Caitlin Clary, Melissa Travis, Jon Callies, Valerie Kelly, Lynne Kaufmann, Jennifer Gray, Deborah, Arielle Zoints, Christine Olson, Karli Williams, Kara Peery, Melissa Travis, Michelle Baack

Welcome and Introductions

Heather Peterman, Medicaid Director, kicked off the meeting with introductions. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

Behavioral Health Update

Melanie Boetel, Director, DSS, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) gave an update on upcoming Behavioral Health Events and opportunities:

- The 3rd annual [Suicide Prevention Conference](#) registration opens May 1, 2024. The conference is August 1st and 2nd at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.
- 988 and the Veterans Crisis Line Safe Storage Suicide Prevention Program
 - [Order a Free Gun Lock](#)
 - Business owners and healthcare facilities may order multiple sets to provide to the public. Business and facilities are not required to report back who received the lock.
 - An [infographic](#) for safe storage is available.
 - [Order a Free Medication Lock Box](#)
- Updates on Appropriate Regional Facilities

Hope Waiver Amendment

Caitlin Clarey presented on changes coming to the HOPE waiver. Slides can be found at the [Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting Website](#).

Discussion and Questions

[Erik Nelson indicated that he appreciates the outreach performed by LTSS during the open comment period.](#)

Pregnancy Program:

[Valerie presented an update on the progress of the pregnancy program.](#)

Discussion and Questions

- Fresh Produce asked if there is any information/comments on this population. Surveys have been done, along with focus groups, but looking to find how to reach those not currently receiving these services.
- Dr. Michelle Baack would like a meeting with Valerie and Fresh Produce – Valerie will schedule.
- Erik Nelson, how is this being funded and where is the money coming from for this promotion? The pregnancy program funding was appropriated by legislature as an initiative of Governor Noem.
- Dr. Baack, how is it currently being promoted across the state? The state has contracted with Fresh Produce to help market and promote the program in addition to utilization of claims data to help attribute pregnant women.

- Is the state doing any kind of SDoH screening (food insecurity specifically)? Outside of the scope of ACOG guidelines the state is focusing on areas more specific to SD utilizing screenings such as SDoH screening which is now covered under billable services. We are also asking providers to do additional screening, specifically around SUD and mental health.
- How will Fresh Produce implement marketing? Jon Callies with Fresh Produce indicated that they are still in the early phases of implementation and research including focus groups.
- Dr. Baack indicated that pairing this with other outreach may be instrumental.

State Plan Amendment Report

Renae Hericks provided an overview of state plan amendments since the last meeting, including updates to the report. A complete list of state plan amendments can be found on the [Medicaid Advisory Committee webpage](#).

EA

Kara Peery presented on the Benefits Eligibility and Enrollment System (BEES) and provided an update on functionality. Slides can be found at the [Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting Website](#).

Discussion and Questions

- Erik Nelson can DSS go over the eligibility period in terms of changes in circumstances? DSS does ask recipients to report any changes in circumstances such as job changes, income changes, household changes as well.
- Erik Nelson asking regarding amendment F, if a work requirement is imposed, are these the processes what would be followed? Mary Johnle indicated that DSS currently anticipates using the same processes we have in place.
- Erik Nelson what has the feedback been regarding BEES? Mary Johnle indicated they have not received functional feedback but has heard that recipients are finding the usability for smartphones as a positive change.
- Erik Nelson in representing the 50+ population, has there been outreach efforts directed at this population and is there a “paper” option available still? Mary Johnle, yes we still accept applications in all forms including paper applications. All EA offices have staff to help assist in applications.
- Heather Peterman asked if Erik had any specific feedback or suggestions to reach that population? Currently Erik does not have any specific feedback or suggestions.

MAC/BAC

Ashley Lauing presented on the upcoming changes to MAC and federal requirements to establish a Beneficiary Advisory Council. Slides can be found at the [Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting Website](#).

Discussion and Questions

- Erik Nelson asked if DSS has a recommended group size for the BAC? DSS is still reviewing the federal rule for specifics for implementation.
- Dr. Baack recommended reaching out to a wide variety of recipients and utilizing current organization groups to solicit recipients such as SDLend and Child Protective Services to include those in the foster care system. DSS indicated the intention is to get a wide range of Medicaid recipients to serve on the BAC, but historically sees a general lack of participation on behalf of recipients in core stakeholder groups.

Preventative Services Postcard

Matthew Ballard presented a new postcard concept to be sent out to recipients for preventative services.

Discussion and Questions

- Dr. Baack asked if could this be sent out via the BEES system? We are currently looking to see what options we may have utilizing BEES and other communication ideas.
- Dr. Baack also recommended that we include information about the portal on the back side.
- Erik Nelson asked if this would go to those enrolled in Medicaid Expansion? DSS is intending for the postcard to go to all adult beneficiaries who have not received a preventative service recently.

- Erik Nelson asked when the postcard would be going out? DSS is targeting sending this in the next couple of months.
- Heather Petermann asked if the group had a recommendation on the timing of the postcard?
 - Dr. Baack think that fall/influenza time might be helpful while people are thinking about those items.
 - Dr. Barnes indicated that DSS is trying to be cognizant of getting information to recipients who don't already have a provider and giving them time to schedule appointments before end of year.

Public Input

Erik Nelson asked if DSS can provide an update on enrollment numbers and projected numbers? Heather Peterman explained that, in line with other states, we have seen a steady incline of recipients applying. Projection for 2024 is getting close to 40,000 if our steady growth continues.

Erick Nelson asked where does the projected number come from? For the 40,000 comes from current experience of enrollment, other projected numbers came from market projections and external evaluations. There was an [actuarial analysis](#) that indicated about 56,000 in SFY 2028.

Erik Nelson would like to see if we can break down the age groups more than “adult & child”? Yes, we can work to add more data to the dashboard.

Erik Nelson asked if BEES will give us more information regarding working adults (in relation to amendment F)? Yes, DSS will be able to access hours worked, income, etc. from BEES.

Erik Nelson asked if DSS has a current churn rate on the expansion population? Mary Johnle will work to get that data for us.

Arielle Zions indicated that other helpful data would be to show disenrollment data. How many kids and adults were disenrolled for technical/procedural reasons. Of those disenrolled, how many re-enrolled, how many got workplace or marketplace insurance, and how many remain uninsured. Mary Johnle has indicated that there are some of those data elements on the CMS unwinding page.

Eric Grocott is getting a lot of calls regarding what benefits are available for the HOPE waiver recipients? DSS will connect Eric with LTSS for further discussions?

Arielle Zions, is the Suicide Prevention line staff trained in asking about access to lethal means and how is that handled and are PCPs trained to ask about gun access? DSS will connect Arielle with behavioral health regarding those questions.

Board Member Retirement

The Department of DSS would like to thank Dr. Michelle Baack for serving as a part of our Medicaid Advisory Committee. We wish her well on her future endeavors and appreciate her time and dedication to serving South Dakota Medicaid recipients.

Next Meeting Date

November 13, 2024: 10:00-12:00 CST