

South Dakota Department of Social Services
Medicaid Tribal Consultation Meeting
01/24/2023

Attendees

Sarah Aker, Sara Spisak, Ashley Lauing, Renae Hericks, Nichole White Wolf, Alex Arobba, Tiffany Larson, Ramona Simon, Ellen Durkin, Bonnie Cromwell, Mary Johnle, Jaze Sollars

Welcome and Introductions

Sarah Aker welcomed the group. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Review Minutes and Updates from October 2022 Meeting

Sarah Aker reviewed minutes and indicated they were available online. Minutes for the meeting can be found online on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#). Sarah provided an update on the DSS Tribal Liaison position; DSS is currently interviewing for the position. Ellen Durkin asked if the position will replace any current staff. Sarah indicated that the position is new for DSS; DSS does not currently have a DSS Tribal Liaison.

Quarterly Report of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures

Quarterly reports of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures can be found online on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

State Plan Amendments

Renae Hericks provided an update on the Medicaid State Plan Amendments (SPA). A complete list of SPAs can be found on [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Medicaid Expansion

Mary Johnle and Sarah Aker presented on Medicaid Expansion. South Dakota voters approved Constitutional Amendment D, which provides for Medicaid Expansion in South Dakota. The amendment requires submission of SPAs by March 1, 2023 with coverage effective July 1, 2023. There are many SPAs associated with the amendment at the link above.

All adult programs will have full coverage and the same coverages, including pregnancy related coverage. Under SD-23-0005 updates the Primary Care Case Management program to pay IHS, FQHCs and RHCs the per member per month case management fee.

Application process for expansion will not change from current application processes and adults who may be eligible can begin applying July 1, 2023.

Timelines for expansion and more information can be found on the slides on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

- Alex Arobba asked if the current handbook discusses Essential Health Benefits? The handbook discusses the benefits provided to current Medicaid recipients. The current Medicaid benefit includes the Essential Health Benefits.
- Alex Arobba asked if after July 1 expansion and current group will have the same coverages? Yes, the coverage will be the same.

- Bonnie Cromwell asked if the timeframe for implementation only applies to the adult program, correct? Yes, current operations will not be impacted.

Medicaid Return to Normal

Mary Johnle provided an update on Medicaid's plan to return to normal operations. Due to CCA, 2023, continuous enrollment is no longer a requirement of the Public Health Emergency. Starting April 1, 2023 recipients may no longer be eligible for coverage if they don't meet coverage requirements.

Medicaid is encouraging providers to remind recipients to make sure their contact information is up to date with their local DSS office, to report any changes in circumstances such as income or changes in household members, and to open all mail from DSS.

Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

- Ramona Simon- Are there trainings and resources available for providers to help recipients? We are currently working on a website with resources available. We can work to add a social media tool kit with posts that facilities can use.
- Bonnie Cromwell- Will everyone lose coverage at once or will it be staggered? The process will be staggered.
- Tiffany Larson brought to attention that she is losing employees at times because they lose childcare funding but cannot fund childcare at their current wage without help.
- Alex Arobba- Are there PSAs for radio for sites? We currently do not have any, but we will work to see if we can develop scripts for use.
- Alex Arobba- Are you cancelling coverage if you get returned mail? DSS already utilized multiple methods of outreach to recipients and will continue to do that to minimize that to the best of our ability.
- Alex Arobba- We have the end of continuous enrollment, could lose about 35,000 recipients at the same time we have expansion with estimates of 50,000 applicants, have you considered postponing renewals until July 1 when expansion is available to avoid a lapse in coverage? We will look at some of the data we have available and see if we are able to limit the number of occurrences.

Money Follows the Person (MFP)

Sara Spisak presented on the MFP program in South Dakota. MFP is designed to help persons 18 years or older with a disability or those over 65 years old to return to a community-based setting of their choice after living in a nursing facility or intermediate care facility. Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

CHOICES Waiver Renewal

Jaze Sollars with Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities presented on the CHOICES waiver renewal that is currently in process. Services provided to a recipient on the waiver are in-lieu of Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. The CHOICES waiver renewal would make five new changes.

Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

CHART

Sarah Aker notified those in attendance that South Dakota officially withdrew from participation in the CHART model 12/27/2022 due to lack of participation from hospitals. Hospital chose not to participate based on reimbursement rates from CMS.

Tribal Reports

Lower Brule- John Hopkins identified 6 tribes to do an opioid study regarding access to care and telehealth. Lower Brule was one of those selected for the investigative study.

Cheyenne River- Boston Children's Hospital has been working with the tribe to resolve health issues and provide services. Looking into becoming a Medicare provider using some online resources for policies and personnel. They have a new medical director and tribal chairman.

Indian Health Services and Urban Indian Health Reports

Indian Health Service - Alex Arobba let those in attendance know about an IHS and CMS conference coming in July as well as a training in April for Medicaid enrollment and benefits outreach.

Urban Indian Health-Bonnie Cromwell discussed a new grant with CHAD. SDUIH would be willing to send benefit staff to help people sign up for healthcare. Building a new clinic that should be open in April of 2023.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

- 04.25.2023 will be hosted by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in Eagle Butte
- 07.25.2023
- 10.24.2023