

South Dakota Department of Social Services
Medicaid Tribal Consultation Meeting Minutes
04/25/2023

Attendees

Sarah Aker, Matthew Ballard, Kara Peery, Matt Althoff, Ashley Lauing, Tiffany Glaser, Bobbi Jo Kraft, Margaret Gunville, Melanie Little Wounded, Delaine Keller, Marisa Mendoza, Arlette Hager, Catherine Lawrence, Ramona Simon, Tiffany Larson, Tricia BirdNecklace, Vickee Anderson, Lisa, Schlosser, Jill Meyers, Timi Williams, Randee Red Fox, Austin Gomez, Nico Sheppard, Steve Leader Charge, Elton Yellow Boy, Deborah Charge On Him, Nicole Whitewolf, Marian Bargola, Joshua Donnell, Alex Arobba, Kathy Welch, Mandi Smith, Jonni Arpan, Melain Tonko, and Shelby Thompson

Welcome and Introductions

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

Review Minutes and Updates from January 2023 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](#).

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

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

- Lisa asked DSS to explain the process for Tribal Consultation regarding SPAs. Sarah Aker detailed that our process includes sending out an email to our Tribal Consultation listserv, which is open to the public, and further discussion at the meetings. Lisa raised concerns about the process. DSS discussed potential revisions to how the information is presented and indicated individuals should feel free to reach out to DSS staff if they have questions about specific SPAs.
- A question was asked if the new tribal liaison position has been filled and if that person would be able to travel to tribes and inform representatives about new SPAs. Secretary Althoff indicated that this position has not been filled yet.

Medicaid Expansion

Sarah Aker presented on Medicaid Expansion including eligibility, the application process, benefits, and the care management programs. More information can be found on the slides on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#). The following questions were asked in relation to the presentation:

- How does Medicaid Expansion work with Medicare?
 - Federal rule states that a recipient is not eligible for Medicaid under expansion if they have Medicare or are eligible for Medicare. DSS still recommends applying for coverage as those recipients may be eligible for the Medicare Savings Program or other services.
- Can recipients start applying in June?

- DSS is able to accept applications in June.
- Will there be more training available?
 - Yes, there will be an in-person training May 25th in Rapid City. In addition, DSS is hosting four webinars in May and June, dates and times can be found on our [Medicaid Expansion](#) webpage.
- Will dental guidelines be the same?
 - Yes, the expansion population will have access to the same coverages as our current adult Medicaid full-coverage population.
- Will Expansion be a separate aid category?
 - Yes, this population will be in categories 92-95. When looking up coverage benefits on the portal providers will see “full coverage.”
- During the last tribal consultation meeting it was reported that providers could expect a six-month wait for claims processing to begin in the expansion population. Is this still what DSS anticipates?
 - DSS is currently running tests on the system’s ability to process these claims. We hope to be able to provide a more accurate timeline soon.
- Should tribal health providers enroll as Primary Care Providers?
 - DSS encourages all providers who are eligible and wish to be primary care providers to enroll in our PCP program including tribal healthcare providers.
- When will provider manuals be updated online?
 - DSS anticipates having provider manuals updated at the end of June for July 1.
- How long will it take to process applications for the expansion population?
 - Current processing times are approximately two weeks. Federal regulations allow for up to 45 days to process an application.
- Can DSS work to implement presumptive eligibility for IHS and tribal facilities?
 - Currently some hospitals are utilizing presumptive eligibility, but federal regulations regarding this are restrictive.
- Can DSS staff come to the Oyate facility a couple times a month to be accessible to recipients?
 - DSS would be happy to look into supporting this in collaboration with the Oyate facility.
- Can DSS send correspondence to providers regarding PCP referral requirements and cost-sharing requirements?
 - Yes, DSS will work on communication regarding these topics.
 - Send out correspondence regarding cost sharing for recipients who are referred from IHS (specifically dental providers)

Medicaid Public Health Emergency Unwinding

Sarah Aker provided an update on Medicaid’s plan to return to normal operations after the public health emergency also known as unwinding. Due to the CAA, 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. If someone loses coverage, they can come back to DSS and reapply at any point. 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. Providers can help recipients with completing [change report forms](#) and faxing or emailing them to [local offices](#).

Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#). The following questions were asked in relation to the presentation:

- Will recipients be eligible for coverage if they are sanctioned for child support?
 - Medicaid recipients will continue to be required to comply with child support.
- Can IHS facilities help with address changes?
 - Any provider can help with address changes by filling out a change report form and emailing or faxing it to a local office. As a reminder, all change report forms must be signed by the recipient but only sections with changes need to be filled out.
- Are there any negative implications with returned mail?
 - When DSS receives returned mail additional outreach is performed to obtain as much information as possible. DSS will not disenroll recipients right away based on returned mail without first trying to reach the recipient through alternative means.
- Is there correspondence with the PCP when someone has returned mail?
 - DSS is trying to help with outreaching recipients in any way we are able. We encourage providers to frequently ask for updated information and report changes to DSS.

Maternal Health Home

Matthew Ballard discussed the new maternal/pregnancy health home structure DSS is working to implement. Legislation appropriated \$3.1 million to support the creation of a pregnancy health home. This program will be modeled after our current health home and PCP programs. Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#). The following question was asked in relation to the presentation:

- Will payment be based on performing core services like the current health home model?
 - Payment for the program is currently intended to be based on meeting a set of requirements related to care coordination and meeting standards of care rather than reporting a core service.

IHS Encounter Rate Increases and Provider Rate Increases

Matthew Ballard presented the new IHS encounter rates and provider rate increases for 2023. Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Crisis Services Updates

Tiffany Glaser with the Division of Behavioral Health gave an update on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. She outlined the difference between 211, 911, and 988 along with current 988 utilization and outcomes. 988 is a 24/7 service available 365 days a year. Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#). The following questions were asked in relation to the presentation:

- Does 988 provide veteran-specific services?
 - Yes, if someone calls 988 and presses option 1 they will be directed to someone who can provide specific veteran services.
- Do tribal populations have access to 988?
 - Yes, 988 is a free service available to anyone in the United States at any time.

Tribal Reports

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe : The indicated they are looking forward to expansion and are gearing up for it. They are working on accreditation to with Medicare and have advertised for a nurse practitioner. They are needing more nurses and will then be able to open two new clinics for a total of four clinics. They are initiating a KIPI radio program where tribal health directors will go on and talk about how to access services. They are

also utilizing a Facebook page with clinic schedules and working on PSAs for covid testing and other changes that are coming with the end of PHE and will now start promoting the 988 Crisis line.

STD rates are on the rise again and targeted efforts are being made to address those using social media, radio, and newspapers. IHS is interested in having a pivot point on site. A new dentist is coming and will hopefully be filling another position in either June or July. They will be able to offer root canals soon. Mental health and addiction services are up and running with a telehealth provider to fill medications. A provider is completing training to be able to write prescriptions. CHR positions are almost filled.

Oyate: They are at the new location as of February 6th and will have positions coming open soon. They are hoping to expand into specialty care soon. They are increasing the number of services they can provide including advanced imaging with a new MRI machine.

Rosebud: Community health representatives are starting to go back into communities and perform home visits. They are seeing an increase in addiction and hope to be able to provide services to help.

Indian Health Services and Urban Indian Health Reports

Indian Health Service: Alex Arobba emphasized the importance of the upcoming in-person training happening May 25th for expansion. In addition, they will be hosting a virtual CMS annual training on the weeks of June 5th and June 12th.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

- 07.25.2023 Pierre, South Dakota
- 10.24.2023 TBD