

## MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, October 28, 2021  
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: GoToWebinar

Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be held through GoToWebinar only.

Please register for MMAC Meeting on October 28, 2021 1:00 p.m. EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8081023846813750800>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Those who would like to make public comment should email Ms. Marcia Crandall at, [marciae.crandall@maryland.gov](mailto:marciae.crandall@maryland.gov) or use the question feature to submit questions to the host.

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### AGENDA

- I. Departmental Report
- II. Open Enrollment Update
- III. Waiver, State Plan and Regulations Changes
- IV. Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Current RSV Activity in Maryland
- V. COVID-19 Pediatric Vaccination Update-*pending*
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Adjournment

**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Staff Contact: Ms. Claire Gregory**  
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**MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

September 23, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Marie McLendon  
Ms. Nora Hoban  
Ms. Jessica Dickerson  
Ms. Nicole McCann  
Mr. Paul Miller  
Adeteju Ogunrinde, M.D  
Ms. Linda Dietsch  
Mr. Floyd Hartley  
Ms. Shannon Hall  
Rachel Dodge, M.D.  
The Hon. Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
The Hon. Pat Young  
The Hon. Matthew Morgan  
Mr. William Webb

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Vickie Walters  
Mr. Kenneth Garove  
Kathryn Fiddler, DNP  
Winifred Booker, D.D.S  
The Hon. Antonio Hayes  
Ms. Anna Sierra  
Ms. Diane McComb  
Mr. Ben Steffen

## Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee

September 23, 2021

### **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Nicole McCann, Chair, called to order the meeting of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee (MMAC) at 1:00 p.m. Committee members approved the minutes from the July 22, 2021 meeting as written.

### **Departmental Report and COVID-19 Updates**

Ms. Tricia Roddy, Deputy Medicaid Director, provided the Committee with a combined Departmental report and COVID-19 update.

The federal American Rescue Plan is a unique opportunity for states to generate additional federal dollars. Between from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 states can receive an additional 10 percent federal match on home and community based services. States have to reinvest those additional federal monies back into the programs. During the legislative session, budget language was passed that directed the Department to reinvest at least 75 percent of those monies in a one-time provider rate increase. The Department has to provide the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with a spending plan on how we plan to reinvest the dollars. CMS needs to approve these plans before we can claim the additional 10 percent match. Maryland did submit an initial spending plan and our initial spending plan only focused on the 75 percent requirement to initiate a one-time provider rate increase. The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is a little bit of an exception because the budget language also directs us to spend any money beyond the 75 percent reinvestment requirement on provider grants. Our initial spending plan reflects the budgetary language for DDA, including both the one-time rate increase and provider grants.

Maryland has to update its spending plan quarterly and we have until March 2024 to complete the reinvestment requirements. This gives us a time to meet the CMS reinvestment requirement. The Department has not heard back from CMS on our initial spending plan. CMS is supposed to only take 30 days to review states spending plans but CMS is taking considerably more time in its reviews. The Department is hoping to hear back from CMS any day now. Separately, on the remaining 25 percent invest requirement, we are going to be initiating a stakeholder process where stakeholders can submit comments to the Department on potential projects to focus on.

The Department has discussed expanding its Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program with the Committee in the past. On the agenda, there is a link to our website for our PACE solicitation that has been released for potential applicants. Again, we are looking to expand in Baltimore, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and a rural area. The Department has had some calls with potential applicants and we've been posting those questions and answers on our website. There seems to be a lot of interest in expending PACE.

The Department has been working with the MCOs to develop next year's capitation rates. The MCOs must sign contracts for CY 2022 by October 1<sup>st</sup>. During our conversations with the MCOs, they have all indicated that they plan to participate next year.

The Department is re-starting the Behavioral Health System of Care meetings. We have a meeting scheduled for October 5, 2021 at 12 noon. The Department is looking forward to re-engaging on our conversation on how to improve the integration between the MCOs and the behavioral health services.

Medicaid received a 12 month Mobile Crisis Planning grant from CMS for \$800,000. Although it was Medicaid who received the grant, the Behavioral Health Administration will be taking the lead on the planning activities. Mobile crisis is a key priority for the Department and we look forward to engaging stakeholders to determine how to develop a mobile crisis network.

### **Eligibility and Redetermination Changes**

As you can see the enrollment numbers are steadily increasing with current enrollment totaling 1,630,327. This is mostly due to the CMS requirement that we can't disenroll enrollees while the Department is receiving the additional 6.2 percent matching dollars from the federal government during the pandemic.

Ms. Debbie Ruppert, Executive Director, Office of Eligibility Services, gave the Committee an overview of the new CMS guidance around redeterminations.

CMS had previously provided in their guidance the opportunity to reach out to recipients and provide them a six months advanced notice prior to the end of the public health emergency (PHE) that their benefits would be terminating if that was appropriate. CMS has provided states with new guidance indicating with a modified PHE that all recipients will need a full redetermination to ensure that they can continue coverage along with a timeline that these redeterminations must occur within a 12 month period after we are notified of the end of PHE.

With this new guidance, the Department has begun discussions to develop a new unwinding schedule and hope to have a new plan shortly. One of the things that we have to remain very concerned about is that fact that whatever we put into effect now related to renewals we will have to live with for many years to come. As you know, when an applicant does a renewal their benefits stay in place for 12 months. We want to be careful not to bottleneck or put all of our renewals in one month so we will probably continue to spread renewals out over a 12 month period. We are currently in discussion on how to outreach to certain pockets of individuals who previously had reported changes and we know that they may not be eligible.

Given the new guidance, the Department is working on creating a very thoughtful process that we will be able to live with for many years to come. The Department will return to the Committee to share the new redetermination process.

### **HealthChoice MCO COVID-19 Vaccination and Outreach Updates**

Vaccinations are a huge priority for the Governor and the Department. The Department tracks the Medicaid numbers and meets weekly with the MCOs. We are getting creative in our outreach to the very hard to reach population.

The MCOs presented their initiatives and activities that they have been working on during the pandemic regarding COVID-19 education, testing and vaccinations. Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director, Maryland MCO Association, introduced the panel of presenters who gave an overview of MCO engagement both internally, looking at operational initiatives and activities pursued by the MCOs as well as external collaborative efforts engaging with various health care partners and stakeholders in the communities that they serve.

Panel participants included Lesley Wallace, VP of Government Contracts Management and Oversight, Medstar Family Choice, Angelo Edge, CEO, Aetna Better Health Maryland, Cynthia Demerest, CEO, Maryland Physician's Care (see attached presentation). Discussion of vaccinations and testing efforts for the Medicaid population will continue at a future MMAC meeting.

### **Provider Enrollment Extension Update**

Ms. Molly Mara, Director, Medicaid Provider Services, gave the Committee an update on provider enrollment flexibilities that are coming to a close as the public health emergency comes to an end (see attached presentation).

### **Interoperability Update**

Ms. Molly Mara gave the Committee an update on Maryland Medicaid's implementation of the CMS Interoperability rule (see attached presentation).

### **Waiver, State Plan and Regulation Changes**

Ms. Molly Marra, gave the Committee a status update on waivers, regulations and state plan amendment changes (see attached charts).

### **Public Comments**

Public comments were given by Ms. Tamyka Coleman of the Maryland Breast Feeding Coalition on availability and coverage of hospital grade breast pumps and post-partum lactation support.

Mr. Eric Colchamiro of the Alzheimer's Association gave comments on provider fees.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. McCann adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.