



## Hawki Clinical Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting August 4, 2022

CAC Members Present:

Stephanie Sinclair, NP  
Deb Bixler, DO

CAC Members Absent:

Stacy Wagner, MD  
Teri Wahlig, MD

Hawki and contract staff present:

Bill Jagiello, QIO, Hawki CAC Chair  
Tami Lichtenberg, Director QIO  
Rebecca Curtis, Bureau Chief, Quality  
Innovation and Medical Policy  
Gretchen Hageman, Delta Dental  
Paul Mulhausen, Chief Medical Director, ITC  
Diane Morrill, QIO

Roll call of CAC members and attendees. Meeting was opened at 7:33 a.m.  
Minutes from the April 2022 meeting were approved as written.

Tami Lichtenberg introduced herself as the Director of QIO Services and plans to attend Hawki CAC meetings to be available for questions.

Dr. Jagiello asked the panel for recommendations for a replacement for Dr. Howard who retired and asked that attendees send him an email with any suggestions. Gretchen Hageman from Delta Dental offered to reach out to the dental community if a dentist would be a viable option.

Dr. Jagiello and Tami were asked to meet with the new Hawki board chair, Mary Nelle Trefz, to discuss how the Hawki CAC could work more closely with the Hawki Board. The Board is interested in having the CAC provide medical expertise as needed while the Board looks at what benefits have the greatest impact on members and also develop pediatric criteria for prior authorizations.

With reduced benefits compared to Iowa Medicaid, Hawki does not include Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) that mandates that persons younger than 21 years of age received medically necessary services, even if those services are not necessarily covered by their insurance. Additionally, the Board wants to identify gaps in Hawki benefits for both medical and mental health benefits.

In polling the attendees, Dr. Bixler stated she did not feel the benefit limitations were a major problem for her patients with Hawki.

Iowa Medicaid Director Matney recently held a town hall session on behavior health benefits and led a discussion that the medical healthcare of children with mental health issues cannot be overlooked, and how medical issues can impact behavior health needs. She is dedicated to figure out some of these issues that have plagued Medicaid for quite a

long time. Some of the individual pieces can help systemic issues. Coordination of care is key and looking at integrated health homes and how these services could be utilized to a greater extent for these children.

The dentistry benefit is hard to utilize as many pediatric dentists may not accept Hawki due to low reimbursement. Gretchen Hageman from Delta Dental stated that pediatric dentists receive approximately 37 percent of their usual and customary fee. There is increased administrative burden as patients have long wait times general dental services and even longer wait times for pediatric dental specialists.

Dr. Bixler stated that there is a systemic issue with Walgreens pharmacy as their system automatically sends fax requests for PA for generic brand differences without a pharmacist ever seeing the request. When a call is made to complete the PA, the pharmacy staff indicate there was an automatic change to the generic brand and that the member has already received the medication. This systemic issue mandates the provider call in for no reason, as the medication has already been delivered to the member.

No further areas of discussion were raised. The meeting was closed at 8:10 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be October 21, 2022, with subsequent meetings on January 19, 2023, and April 20, 2023, and July 20, 2023 (third Thursday quarterly).