

IOWA MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Commissioners

September 29, 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pertinent Information Regarding the Deliberations of the Mental Health and Disability Services Commission Relating to Medicaid Managed Care (MCO).

December 1, 2022 – MHDS Commission Meeting

Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief, Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) provided an update on the current review of long-term services and supports (LTSS) (Home and Community Based Services, Behavioral Health and Aging) system. Mathematica (contract consultant) with the assistance of The Harkin Institute have met with many stakeholders and staff, reviewed data, including regional data, and have produced a preliminary report with recommendations for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs and waivers.

January 19, 2023 – MHDS Commission Meeting

Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief, Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) updated the MHDS Commission noting that effective April 1, 2023, the state requirement to provide continuous coverage for individuals on Medicaid will be eliminated. This provision was in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was signed by President Biden in December 2022. Due to this change, Iowa Medicaid is looking at unwinding and is working on informing members and putting processes in place.

Managed Care Organization (MCO) onboarding is in process with the addition of Molina Healthcare coming on July 1, 2023, as the third MCO. Psychiatric intensive care tiered rates went into effect on January 1, 2023. There are now two rates with Medicaid, one for general psychiatric and one for intensive psychiatric. Iowa Medicaid worked with stakeholders, providers, the Iowa Hospital Association, and MCOs to determine acuity and what those rates would be.

During the 2022 legislative session a bill was put forward that would require Iowa Medicaid to submit a State Plan Amendment to add the children's evidence-based practices (EBPs), Family Functional Therapy (FFT) and Multisystemic Therapy (MST), to the service array in the State Plan. This

would mean these EBPs would be funded by Medicaid. Currently, there are several providers throughout the state providing FFT and MST, which are funded through juvenile court.

May 17, 2023 – Joint Meeting of the Iowa Mental Health Planning & Advisory Council & MHDS Commission Meeting

Liz Matney, Director, Iowa Medicaid presented on the HCBS Waiver Transition Plan developed from Mathematica's yearlong assessment of the state's behavioral health, aging, and disability services system, as well as an update on current projects being funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. Liz noted that much of the information she shared can be found on the HHS website: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/CBS-Redesign>.

May 18, 2023 – MHDS Commission Meeting

LeAnn Moskowitz, HHS-Iowa Medicaid provided an overview of the current Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers. This information included the different HCBS roles and waiver programs including what they have in common, the requirements regarding cost neutrality, funding slots and wait lists. LeAnn provided specific information about the Brain Injury (BI) and Intellectual Disabilities (ID) waivers emergency and priority needs assessments as well as reserved capacity slots. LeAnn reviewed the requirements of each of the waivers. She also reviewed the role of the Targeted Case Manager (TCM), Community Based Case Manager (CBCM), and Integrated Health Homes (IHH) as well as the role of MCOs in service authorization.

July 20, 2023 – MHDS Commission Meeting

Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief, Iowa Health and Human Services, provided an update and noted that effective July 1, 2023, that Molina Healthcare has joined Amerigroup and Iowa Total Care as a statewide MCO in Iowa. Some members have received notice that they will be moved to Molina membership with the option of going back to their previous MCO if they prefer. Members who were not moved to Molina have the option of selecting them.

Iowa Medicaid has been holding monthly virtual town hall meetings with providers and members to gather feedback on the current state of the program and how to improve, as well as to share information on current and future program projects and improvements. Medicaid Information Letter (IL) #2468 was released and it announced that HCBS Waiver Services are being expanded to permanently include Medical Day Care for Children and Adult Day Care to the Brain Injury (BI), Children's Mental Health (CMH), Intellectual Disability (ID), and Health and Disability (HD) waivers. The new Iowa Medicaid Dashboard was also shared with the MHDS Commission which can be found at: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/iowa-Medicaid-dashboard>.

September 21, 2023 – MHDS Commission Meeting

The Commission discussed its executive summary to HHS and the members' thoughts on Medicaid Managed Care over the previous year.

During their deliberations, the Commission has heard of several concerns from stakeholders that remain similar to the concerns reported in 2022. The Commission is disappointed to note and deeply concerned that we have not seen significant progress in the following areas even though they have been brought up for multiple years, and strongly urges HHS and MCOs to increase efforts to address the following:

- Lack of reimbursement to mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers for multiple clinical services provided on the same day, which results in barriers to individuals' access to services
- Lack of consistency and easy access for translation services across MCOs.
- Delayed and partial payments to providers
- Delayed and/or reduced authorization for long term supports and services
- Concern regarding burdensome administrative requirements for Integrated Health Homes
- Peer support and recovery peer support services are undervalued and, as a result underfunded
- Increased administrative burdens and costs for providers particularly for keeping claims alive to receive payment
- Understaffed mental health providers and substance use disorder treatment services workforce due to rates that have not been adjusted to reflect changes in costs for years for some services. (The Commission recognizes legislation was passed to increase rates for direct support professionals and appreciates those efforts by the Legislature.)
- Increased oversight during times of MCO contract transition is needed to ensure continuity of care, and funding of services and supports.
- Increased development of quality services, including evidenced based and promising practices, is needed for all population groups including children
- Increased community capacity to serve individuals with the most complex and serious needs
- Delayed eligibility updates for individuals post incarceration on Medicaid's Eligibility and Verification Information System (ELVS) line has resulted in large recoupments for providers due to receiving inaccurate eligibility information
- Need to assure that behavioral health services are reimbursed on par with other health services in accordance with parity law
- Procedural and financial barriers to providing integrated care