
STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

Health ^{AND} Human

SERVICES

Dental Strategy Updates

Member Town Hall

9/7/2023

Dental Stakeholder Workgroup

Focus: Access to care

- Maximize resources and recognize opportunities as they arise
- Increase collaboration, information sharing and partnerships
- Provide a blueprint for action to increase access to services

Program Challenges Identified

- Lack of dentist accepting new patient referrals
- Lack of providers for surgical extractions and medically compromised cases
- Transportation needs and distance to access providers
- Treatment compliance
- Low reimbursement rates for services to providers
- Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas
 - 9 geographic counties (1:5000)
 - 57 low-income counties (1:4000)



Key Takeaways

Program Improvement

- Increase Access for Members
- Maximize the current capacity of Iowa's Healthcare Workforce
- Reduce Administrative Barriers
- Improve Quality of Services
- Improve Member Education
- Target Reimbursement Strategies

Strategies in Process

Released a Dental Request for Proposal (RFP)

- Background – Contracts currently open to any carrier with the ability to meet contractual requirements and pass a readiness review.
- Goals of the RFP are to procure the most qualified dental plans to demonstrate innovation, deliver high quality services and coordinate care and provide quality outcomes for members.
- Intended program outcomes include increasing member choice, increasing access to dental services, aligning all managed care contract requirements, oversight and accountability and ensure program stability.
- Notice of Intent to Award on November 1, 2023.

Strategies in Process

- Dental Rate Review
 - During the last legislative session, Iowa Medicaid completed a comprehensive rate review for Medicaid providers and services, including dental.
 - Although the legislators did not allocate specific increases in the last session for dental services, they requested Medicaid to propose options to redistribute dental funds into preventative and diagnostic codes/services from areas above the rate benchmark.



Strategies in Process

Dental Quality Strategy

- Strategic Plan with various approaches to process improvements for our dental programs.

Dental Dashboard

- HHS Dashboard includes dental data.
- <https://hhs.iowa.gov/iowa-Medicaid-dashboard>

Strategies in Process by Delta Dental and MCNA Dental

1

Provider
Reimbursement
Incentives

2

Improve
Referrals to
Dentists and
Specialists

3

Incentivize
Prevention

Overview of Potential Future Strategies

Expand I-Smile Program

- Expanded use of RDH's and DA's in providing direct preventive services (ie: fluoride and sealants)
- Improve care coordination by helping members navigate a referral to a DDS

Train More Medical Professionals

- Dental services provided by non-dental healthcare professionals and their designated staff.

Overview of Potential Future Strategies

Explore Innovative Funding

- Alternative federal funding sources to increase funding for dental programs

Explore Innovative Practices

- Expand Provider Types
- New anesthesia payment methodology
- Risk based delivery

Questions?