



## Hawki Board Meeting February 15, 2021

| Hawki Board Members                  | Department of Human Services   |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Angela Burke Boston – present        | Julie Lovelady, Interim Medicaid Director  |
| Mary Nelle Trefz, Chair – present    | Paula Motsinger, IME Policy Bureau Chief   |
| Jim Donoghue – present               | Kurt Behrens, IME  |
| Eric Kohlsdorf – present             | Kevin Kirkpatrick, IME   |
| Dr. Bob Russell – present            | Anna Ruggle, IME   |
| Dr. Kaaren Vargas – present          | Heather Miller, IME  |
| Shawn Garrington – present           | <b>Guests</b>  |
| Senator Nate Boulton – present       | Gretchen Hageman, DDIA   |
| Senator Dennis Guth –                | John Hedgecoth, Amerigroup   |
| Representative John Forbes – present | Jean Johnson, IDPH   |
| Representative Shannon Lundgren –    | Kim Flores, Iowa Total Care  |
|                                      | Lindsay Paulson, MAXIMUS   |
|                                      | Rachel Cecil, CEO County Rural Offices of Social Services (CROSS) Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Regions |
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**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Board Chair Mary Nelle Trefz called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM via Zoom. Chair Trefz conducted a roll call, and attendance is as reflected above. A quorum was established.

**Approval of the Hawki Board Meeting Minutes**

Chair Trefz called for the Board to review the minutes from the December 14, 2020, meeting. Chair Trefz asked for a motion to approve the minutes and the motion carried.

**New Business**

Chair Trefz asked Board members if they had any new business they would like to discuss. Dr. Vargas raised the issue of Medicaid reimbursement for the hospital component of operating room cases and the possibility of hospitals not accepting Medicaid patients moving forward. Chair Trefz asked Paula Motsinger if she had any input. Paula stated that she and Anna Ruggle would discuss it with Julie Lovelady and get back to the group. Dr. Russell seconded Dr. Vargas’ concern and mentioned that with the transition of Medicaid children’s dental benefits to managed care in 2021, a new simplified coding system would be implemented. Rep. Forbes stated that the Legislature is looking at budget analyses and is working to ensure the funding of Medicaid programs.

## **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **Hawki 101**

Chair Trefz noted that a topic of general interest among Board members was an overview of the Hawki program. Anna Ruggle, Hawki program manager, provided a brief summary of the Hawki program and its benefits. Chair Trefz asked about the benchmark equivalent plan and how often the selection is made. Anna said that the plan is selected once at the beginning of the program and that benefits can be changed or added.

## **Hawki and the National Landscape**

Chair Trefz gave a presentation discussing how the Hawki program compares with other Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) across the country. She stated that she coordinated with the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) and was relaying information from them. Chair Trefz again commented on the advantages Hawki provides, namely the flexibility the state has in tailoring the plan to the children's needs. Reminding members that the Board's purpose is to advise the Governor and Legislature on Hawki policy, she concluded her presentation by soliciting input from Board members.

Dr. Russell asked if there is a program within Hawki that would cover hospital reimbursement and if it differs from Medicaid. Paula replied that Hawki reimburses at the same rate as traditional insurance, and that a member's specific coverage (Hawki + Medicaid, Hawki + regular insurance, etc.) determines if a procedure or treatment is covered. Dr. Russell shared his concern that there may be a coverage/reimbursement gap in some instances and that it's an issue that the Board should address going forward.

Chair Trefz commented that another aspect of the program they should consider is that benefits essentially have two layers – the benefit itself and if a member actually qualifies for the benefit. Paula added that benefits few members qualify for could be scaled back or removed and the money redirected elsewhere.

## **Behavioral Health Benefits Available to Hawki Members**

Anna gave a presentation on the behavioral health aspect of the Hawki program. She touched on what benefits Hawki members receive, including mental health and substance use services. Anna discussed the Support Act and how it provides guidelines for administering a behavioral health program. Chair Trefz invited Rachel Cecil, of the Mental Health and Disability Services Regions, to speak briefly. Rachel asked what crisis intervention and stabilization services Hawki covers. Anna stated that she would research and provide Rachel with an answer. Chair Trefz asked about a scenario where a member is not covered for a behavioral health service through Hawki, specifically, would they be able to transition to regular Medicaid. Anna said that a member in this situation would have to apply for a Children's Mental Health (CMH) Waiver.

## **Director's Report**

Julie Lovelady gave a brief update on the Public Health Emergency (PHE). She stated that the current PHE goes through April 30, 2021, but according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the PHE is likely to last through the remainder of 2021. Once the PHE ends, HHS will give states 60 days to wind down COVID-19/PHE programs. Julie also touched on COVID-19 vaccines, stating that Hawki children are currently not in a priority group to receive the vaccine, but it will be a covered benefit under the Hawki program at no cost to members. Finally, Julie stated that the deadline for providers to use CARES Act funds has been extended to June 30, 2021.

## **Updates from the MCOs**

John Hedgecoth, of Amerigroup Iowa Inc. (Amerigroup), presented an update. John discussed Amerigroup's value added benefits: highlighting a first-of-its-kind program in Iowa that supplies new moms with electric breast pumps. John also mentioned a new healthy rewards incentive program which

includes family and childcare incentives for completing milestones such as pre-natal, post-partum, well baby, and well child provider visits. John added that Amerigroup is expanding their partnership with Count the Kicks and will offer a series of virtual classes to support community engagement of important maternal/child health topics, available resources, and improved health outcomes. The classes will cover three areas: COVID-19 and pregnancy; educational baby showers; and Ask-A-Lactation consultant.

Kim Flores presented an update for Iowa Total Care. Kim discussed Iowa Total Care's member incentive program, specifically the program's expansion to promote wellness check-ups for members through the age of 21. Kim also spoke about Iowa Total Care's partnership with Amerigroup, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the American Cancer Society to promote vaccinations. She mentioned the HPV vaccine and the effort to provide screenings for members and educational resources for parents. She added that Iowa Total Care is looking to hold health literacy and back-to-school events this year.

Gretchen Hageman provided an update for Delta Dental of Iowa (DDIA). Over the past six months, DDIA has seen a decreased rate of care among the Hawki population; they have worked with members to promote the safety of office visits during the PHE. DDIA has launched a campaign to communicate with members who have not received dental care since the beginning of the PHE. Gretchen said that DDIA continues to send dental healthcare packages to members, focusing on those who haven't utilized benefits over the previous six months. Gretchen added that DDIA continues to emphasize the importance of dental care for children through age 3 by reaching out to pregnant women and parents.

### **Outreach**

Jean Johnson, with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), presented an update to the Board. She stated that Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics are beginning to reopen, along with schools, who provide a majority of Hawki referrals. Jean highlighted the coordinated efforts between Hawki and the I-Smile program when reaching out to providers. Jean also stated that the outreach program continues to use social media to push out updates, and that she is currently working on the 2021 Hawki brochure. She concluded by highlighting a recent success story where outreach coordinators assisted in finding dental homes for three children.

### **Communications Update**

Kevin Kirkpatrick provided the IME communications update. He reported no major changes to Hawki communications.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Submitted by,

John Riemenschneider  
Recording Secretary  
jr