



Hawki Board Meeting April 12, 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	Jennifer Steenblock, IME Bureau Chief
Eric Kohlsdorf –	Mary Stewart, IME Bureau Chief
Dr. Bob Russell – present	Amela Alibasic, IME Bureau Chief
Dr. Kaaren Vargas –	Kevin Kirkpatrick, IME
Shawn Garrington – present	Anna Ruggle, IME
Senator Nate Boulton –	Heather Miller, IME
Senator Mark Costello –	Kurt Behrens, IME
Representative Shannon Lundgren –	Tashina Hornaday, IME
	Natalie Bryant, IME
	Guests
	Gretchen Hageman, DDIA
	John Hedgecoth, Amerigroup
	Jean Johnson, IDPH
	Lindsay Paulson, MAXIMUS

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 February 15, 2021, meeting. Chair Trefz asked for a motion to approve the minutes and the motion carried.

New Business

Chair Trefz began by noting that Dr. Vargas’ and Eric Kohlsdorf’s terms on the Board were to expire at the end of April. She stated she would check in with them to gauge their interest in staying on beyond the end of their terms. She then asked Board members if they had any new business they would like to discuss. Shawn Garrington said that he’s talked to various providers in the Hawki network and determined that Hawki has a stellar reputation, and congratulated the group on a job well done.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Medicaid Eligibility COVID-19 Unwinding Plans

Amela Alibasic gave a presentation on Medicaid eligibility COVID-19 unwinding plans. She talked about the state implementing policies at the onset of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) designed to ensure continued coverage for Medicaid members. The only events which would discontinue coverage are voluntary removal, death, and moving out of state. She said the state's unwinding plan is threefold: age-out process, eligibility modification, and following Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance. She talked about the importance of using a phased approach to unwinding, rather than undoing multiple processes at the same time. Phase 1 would be implemented April 20, 2021; Phase 2 in summer of 2021; and Phase 3 at a later date. These unwinding procedures will allow Hawki to gradually and responsibly return to business as it was pre-COVID-19. Dr. Russell asked how this information would be disseminated. Amela said that the Hawki Board was the first audience to hear about the plan, and dissemination would happen pending the Board's approval. Chair Trefz encouraged Amela to reach out to the Board if she needs any assistance during this process. Chair Trefz also asked Amela to run through Phase 2, and Amela went into it with a bit more detail. Angela Burke Boston asked about the timeframe for reaching out to, and establishing contact with, members who may have had an address change because of housing insecurity during the PHE. Amela said that members will have an opportunity to notify the Department of any changes. Amela urged the Board to come to her with any suggestions for making this process more efficient and effective.

Data Dive

Kurt Behrens gave a presentation on the Managed Care Organization (MCO) quarterly performance report. He began by briefly noting some minor format changes. He pointed out that Hawki membership increased by 20,000 from Q1 to Q2 FY21, or about a 3% increase. He said that with 75,000 new members over the past year, membership has been trending up; this may be partly attributable to Hawki not disenrolling members during the PHE. He focused on the MCO Care Quality and Outcomes; and the MCO Children Summary portions of the reports, saying that he wanted to get this information in front of the Board. He specifically mentioned that data from Q2 FY20 is pre-COVID-19 and data from Q2 FY21 is during COVID-19. Kurt noted that despite the Hawki population increasing by 3%, well child exams decreased by 6%, and vaccinations decreased by 12%. Chair Trefz suggested that future data analyses contain more data trends or analysis that would put the data into context. Kurt agreed that future reports should contain an executive summary containing a general breakdown of pertinent data. Chair Trefz asked about balance billing and medical loss ratios (MLR), which Kurt said he would take back with him. Mary Stewart said that there is a six-month runout for claims, and contractors would begin calculating MLRs in late May or early June. Angela asked about telehealth and if Hawki members are using it, particularly during the PHE. Julie Lovelady said the Department is talking with stakeholders and reviewing data to determine its efficacy. Jim Donoghue asked for clarification about voluntary disenrollment, and Kurt explained that a member can file a grievance if they do not want to stay with an MCO after the open enrollment period has ended.

Anna Ruggle gave a presentation on the annual report to CMS. The report is filed with the CHIP Annual Report Template System (CARTS). Anna walked the group through the different sections of the report, detailing what information CMS requires. She presented an annual report that she recently completed and noted several examples of information that is typically included. Chair Trefz specifically noted the data tracking that is included in the report and said it was helpful information to have. Chair Trefz asked if there is an opportunity for Hawki Board members to weigh in on the report before it is sent to CMS. Anna said that Board members are always welcome to provide input. Angela asked what CMS does with the report after receiving it, and Anna said CMS reviews it and compares data between states, and she would take the question back for a more detailed answer.

Chair Trefz said that the agenda item regarding IME for Child Core Measures would be moved to the June meeting.

Director's Report

Julie gave the director's update. She began by addressing questions Dr. Russell and Dr. Vargas raised at the February meeting regarding hospital reimbursement for dental procedures. Julie stated that the IME is still in the information gathering phase. She also noted that there are many aspects to this issue which will need to be addressed before developing any kind of concrete answer. She said that she will be in touch with Chair Trefz with any pertinent updates.

Julie also discussed how the IME is expanding its COVID-19 vaccine program to cover more groups. The groups include the COVID-19 testing coverage group, Hawki dental-only group, and limited Medicaid for non-citizens group. The effective date of the expanded coverage was March 11, 2021. Julie also said that effective April 1, 2021, the administration rate for the vaccine through Managed Care (MC) and Fee-for-Service (FFS) is now \$40 per dose, which matches the Medicare rate.

MCO Updates

John Hedgecoth from Amerigroup presented an update. He said Amerigroup will initiate a COVID-19 vaccine outreach program for 16- to 18-year-olds enrolled in the Hawki program. Pfizer will provide the vaccine for this particular program. John said Amerigroup anticipates the 12- to 15-year-old age bracket becoming eligible for the vaccine in the near future. He noted that a significant portion of Amerigroup's efforts are focused on COVID-19 vaccine outreach for Hawki members. He also spoke of Amerigroup's continued partnership with the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative and the positive effect it has had, as well as Amerigroup's partnership with food banks around the state. He briefly touched on Amerigroup's baby shower program, and its efforts to distribute breast pumps and provide families of Hawki members with gas cards.

Gretchen Hageman from Delta Dental of Iowa (DDIA) presented an update. She said DDIA has spent a considerable amount of time and effort on member outreach and care coordination with the goal of getting Hawki members in to see the dentist. They've reached out via text messages and phone calls, targeting members who have missed their six-month checkup. Gretchen noted that the outreach program has thus far been successful, with data indicating an upward trend in the number of members using dental services after a period of decline.

Kim Flores from Iowa Total Care was not present. Chair Trefz said that Kim would provide an update to the Board via email.

Outreach

Jean Johnson from the Iowa Department of Public Health gave an update. The 2021 Hawki brochures are complete and have been mailed to Hawki outreach coordinators. There are also supplemental brochures that Hawki outreach coordinators can personalize for their health agencies and communities. Hawki outreach coordinators are distributing these brochures to clinics in their areas. Jean also mentioned that Hawki outreach coordinators who typically work with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics have largely shifted to COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Outreach coordinators have utilized social media and promoted telehealth during the PHE, but are looking forward to returning to the clinics soon to provide direct outreach.

Communications Update

Kevin Kirkpatrick provided an update. He gave a brief presentation on the 2021 Medicaid Reference Guide. He noted that the guide is organized into four chapters that cover: eligibility and services; managed care; budget and financials; and governance and framework. A glossary and list of resources are included at the end.. A second edition is already being developed and will incorporate feedback from stakeholders. The plan is to have the second edition ready for lawmakers to review before the next legislative session.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, June 21, 2021.
Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Submitted by,
John Riemenschneider
Recording Secretary
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