



**Hawki Board Meeting
June 15, 2020**

Hawki Board Members	Department of Human Services
Angela Burke Boston – present	Mike Randol, Medicaid Director
Mary Nelle Trefz – present	Kevin Kirkpatrick, IME
Jim Donoghue – present	Anna Ruggle, IME
Eric Kohlsdorf, Chair – present	Heather Miller, IME
Dr. Bob Russell – present	
Dr. Kaaren Vargas – present	Guests
Shawn Garrington – present	Jean Johnson, IA Department of Public Health
Senator Nate Boulton – present	Lindsay Paulson, MAXIMUS
Senator Dennis Guth – present	Joe Estes, MAXIMUS
Representative John Forbes –	Gretchen Hageman, Delta Dental Iowa
Representative Shannon Lundgren -	John Hedgecoth, Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.
	Gabe Medley, Iowa Total Care

Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair Eric Kohlsdorf called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM by phone. Chair Kohlsdorf conducted a roll call, and attendance is as reflected above. Chair Kohlsdorf established a quorum.

Approval of the Hawki Board Meeting Minutes

Chair Kohlsdorf called for the Board to review the minutes from the April 20, 2020 meeting. Chair Kohlsdorf asked for a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion carried.

Welcoming of New Committee Members

Chair Kohlsdorf recognized Mary Nelle Trefz and Shawn Garrington as new members of the board and allowed them time to introduce themselves. Mary Nelle introduced herself, stating she works at the Child and Family Policy Center, focusing on health policy issues, working to ensure children have access to healthcare. Shawn introduced himself, stating he has been involved in foster care and working with at risk youth.

Director's Report

Medicaid Director Mike Randol gave updates on the Hawki program and Medicaid overall. Director Randol referred to written materials for finance reports and focused his remarks on the response to COVID-19. The Department has not seen a significant increase in Medicaid applications, as other states have during the coronavirus emergency. The Department will not disenroll members during the duration of the coronavirus emergency. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has created a new billing group for uninsured testing and diagnosis services, the IME has implemented this program to allow uninsured members to be tested for COVID-19. This billing group does not allow for services beyond testing and diagnosis. During the coronavirus emergency, the IME has been given permission to make retainer payments for specific Home- and Community- Based Services (HCBS) providers who have not been allowed to provide services to members. Additional federal funds have been released for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers. Providers may access these funds by submitting an application through the enhanced provider relief fund portal located on the DHS website. Mike continues to hold weekly calls with stakeholders regarding the coronavirus emergency. Mike noted that Angela Burke Boston had requested information regarding spending on hemophilia drugs, this information has been put together and is being peer-reviewed and will be distributed to the board prior to the next meeting.

Mary Nelle thanked Mike for all the flexibility IME has allowed providers to have during the coronavirus emergency, and asked if this will continue moving forward. Mike stated that the IME would continue some of these flexibilities, specifically telehealth services.

Senator Dennis Guth asked if there are Medicaid members who have tested positive for COVID-19. Mike stated that yes there are Medicaid members who have tested positive, and that the Department is closely monitoring this information.

Updates from the MCOs

John Hedgecoth, of Amerigroup Iowa, Inc., presented an update to the Board. Amerigroup continues to work with the IME in response to the coronavirus emergency. Amerigroup has engaged in direct outreach to its members, working on food insecurity connecting members with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. Amerigroup's foundation has donated to several foodbanks across the state. Amerigroup obtained and distributed 65,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) masks, primarily amongst Medicaid providers.

Gabe Medley, of Iowa Total Care (ITC), presented an update. ITC has been working in partnership with the IME in response to the coronavirus emergency. ITC has been working with staff and providers to make sure members are still able to receive services. ITC has made an effort to communicate to members resources available to them during the coronavirus emergency, such as Test Iowa and COVID Recovery Iowa. ITC recently implemented a texting program, adding an additional channel of communication between ITC and its members. ITC is continuing its outreach campaign to new mothers, in an attempt to avoid or reduce Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) stays.

Gretchen Hageman, of Delta Dental Iowa (DDIA), gave a brief update. Due to the shutdown of dental services during the coronavirus emergency, DDIA is tracking large decreases in service utilization by Hawki children. The order eliminating all but emergency dental services expired on May 8, 2020, and DDIA has since seen an increase in services. Traditionally June, July and August are popular months for children to receive preventative dental services. DDIA has heard from some Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that some centers are only providing emergency dental services due to a PPE shortage. DDIA has seen an uptick in telehealth services.

Dr. Kaaren Vargas asked if telehealth services were being reimbursed. Mike answered that this was being evaluated.

Eric asked if there were reports of an uptick in telehealth services. Mike answered that they had seen a significant increase, as well as an increase in home-delivered meals. The IME has opened up reimbursement for home-delivered meals to a wider pool of members.

Managed Care Quarterly Report

Mike presented the Managed Care Quarterly Report for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 Quarter 2. Enrollment was relatively flat during this period, Mike noted it this is the first time in a long time that enrollment has been relatively flat. ITC reported several decreases in participant survey data points due to an issue with their survey vendor, a large percentage of members answered questions with “I don’t know” or “I do not understand”. Moving forward ITC will conduct surveys in-house. Mike covered enrollment figures, secret shopper data, non-pharmacy claims data, prior authorization (PA) data, and pharmacy claims data.

Communications Update

Kevin Kirkpatrick provided a brief IME Communications update, noting there are no major communications issues regarding Hawki. With disenrollments and premiums suspended, there are not many communications going out to members.

Outreach

Jean Johnson, of Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), gave an update on Hawki outreach. Jean noted that the big push for outreach during the pandemic was in March and April and that the outreach program has since slowed down. Jean stated that she has been working closely with Mary Nelle. Jean stated there will be a virtual nurse’s conference in July.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

New Business

Eric stated that the board needed to create a committee to nominate the chair and vice chair of the board. Eric asked Jim Donoghue to head the nominating committee as he has worked on it in the past. Shawn volunteered to join the nominating committee.

Mary Nelle requested an update on where Iowa’s CHIP program stands in terms of offering behavioral health services.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 17, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM.

Submitted by,

Michael Kitzman
Recording Secretary
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