

**Illinois Department of Public Aid
Medicaid Advisory Committee**

401 S. Clinton Street, Chicago, IL
210 S. Grand Avenue East, Springfield, IL

November 18, 2005

Members Present

Eli Pick, Chairman
Laura Leon for Robin Gabel, IMCHC
Jill Fraggos for Susan Hayes Gordon
Richard Perry, D.D.S
Robert Anselmo, R.Ph
Debra Kinsey, DCFS
Alvin Holley
Nancy Crossman, DHS
Diane Coleman, PCIL

Members Absent

Pedro A. Poma, M.D.
Kim Mitroka – Christopher Rural Health
Neil Winston

HFS Staff

Anne Marie Murphy, Ph.D.
Jacquetta Ellinger
Deborah Watkins
Carla Lawson
John Larson
Aundrea Hendricks
James Monk

Interested Parties

Cher Beilfuss, Allergan
Chuck Sauer, NPHA
Robin Scott, CDPH
Mark Mlynarczyk, MedImmune
Cheryl Luria - Amylin
Deb Mathews for Gerri Clark, DSCC
Lisa Gregory, IPHA

Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)
Draft Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2005

I Call to Order

Chairman Eli Pick called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

II. Introductions

Attendees in Chicago and Springfield introduced themselves.

Ethics packets. John Larsen from the Office of the General Counsel advised that 5 MAC members had not yet provided the annual Ethics statement. Follow-up was discussed for each packet needed.

III. Review of the Minutes

September minutes were reviewed. Robert Anselmo requested a correction on page 3 regarding his statement about DEA to read as follow: “ Mr. Anselmo stated the DEA has relaxed the rules for controlled substances. Pharmacists can give a 30-day supply of a 3C-5 and 7 day supply of a C-2.” No other corrections. Richard Perry moved to approve the minutes and Robert Anselmo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV Administrator’s Report

Dr. Anne Marie Murphy and Jackie Ellinger provided an update on the hurricane Katrina relief efforts, the new All Kids program and the role of the MAC.

1) Regarding the hurricane Katrina relief effort, Illinois has enrolled 4,100 persons identified as disaster evacuees, mostly from Louisiana, with Medicaid billing for 400 persons. The way that the federal CMS will finance payment has not been resolved.

CMS has proposed contributing the state’s share of the federal match. The state of Louisiana would cover 30 percent and the feds would cover 70 percent. Dr. Murphy added that Louisiana’s service package is more limited than Illinois.

Illinois revised application procedure for hurricane victims by assuming Illinois residency and by temporarily waiving some verification requirements such as citizenship, disability and income.

HFS is trying to coordinate with the Department of Human Services (DHS) on cash and food stamp benefits. This is difficult as rules and time frames are

different from program to program. For example, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) says states can't enroll after October 1, while the federal CMS allows enrollment through January 1.

Ms. Ellinger stated that questions from the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) helped us think through our relief effort response. The work of DHS was also recognized as most valuable.

2) Dr. Anne Marie Murphy reported that the All Kids legislation passed quickly reflecting the strong support for this initiative. She stated that now the work begins on implementation. HFS is working on a mechanism to identify persons who are potentially eligible. We will reach out to three groups: children eligible now under the current KidCare policy (estimated as one half of the uninsured population); non-citizen children and; children meeting the current citizenship rules but newly eligible for All Kids.

Dr. Murphy shared some of the outreach strategy planning. There is a card being developed for persons interested but not yet eligible. There is a screening tool to determine if children may be eligible now. A pre-registration system is also being developed. The department is also writing a request for proposal (RFP) for marketing and outreach. Information will be available through the Governor's office.

One eligibility requirement under All Kids is that a child has to be uninsured for 6 months prior to the time of initial registration for July 1. There will be some exceptions that include: loss of insurance due to loss of employment; families with a newborn child; or children whose eligibility for KidCare had been cancelled due to increased income within the last 12 months.

We have developed an All Kids Web site and are in the process of adding an All Kids phone number.

Dr. Murphy stated that Ms. Ellinger would be involved in writing the All Kids rules for eligibility. Decisions need to be made regarding when premiums are due and what happens if premiums are not paid.

Dr. Murphy stated that the department is looking at going with permanent medical assistance cards. This means providers would have to do an eligibility look-up to determine if a child is currently eligible. Also, providers won't be able to make assumptions about different income levels if the medical assistance cards look alike.

Ms. Ellinger pointed out that the All Kids statute doesn't specifically set cost sharing amounts so that cost structure must be clearly established. Dr. Murphy added that we want ease in understanding the cost structure. We could go with

cost as a percentage or as a flat fee. We must grapple with our system and be ready for July 1.

We will also need to develop our Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) and disease management models. Dr. Murphy advised that we are looking at the 27 to 29 states that have PCCM. We plan to use a medical home model with patient assignment to physicians. We will issue an RFP for one or more vendors to assist us with medical case management.

Dr. Murphy encouraged interested parties to raise questions, concerns or desires for the new system. She gave the example of the role of school based clinics. Can they be a PCP? Will the school be open long enough to meet the persons needs? Is the clinic accessible? Can we allow for self-referral to another PCP?

Dr. Murphy continued that we will grapple with the most appropriate way to ensure access to the primary care physician. For example, what if a person decides to go to another provider because they do not want their chosen PCP to know about a health condition, e.g., STD.

She stated that balancing care in a holistic manner with a person's need for access must be considered. In the mental health area, we need to look at patients going to multiple providers to get prescriptions. This may not be the best for coordination of care.

3) Participants were provided with a copy of the amendment to House Bill 806 (All Kids). Dr. Murphy stated that the role of the MAC is important to the success of All Kids and stated that she is interested in recommendations of persons to participate. She directed the group to section 50, which states that the department shall present details regarding implementation of the program to the MAC and the MAC shall serve as the forum for healthcare providers, advocates, consumers and other interested parties to advise the department with respect to the program.

Ms. Ellinger stated that it is hard to get the participation of consumers or consumer advocates, defined as not paid for services. She encouraged participants to recommend anyone that might be able to serve.

Participants were provided a copy of an amendment made by Senator Durbin recommending that the U.S. Senate not extend the capital gains and dividend tax cuts but use the funds generated to further the goal of ensuring that children have access to health insurance coverage.

Jill Fraggos commended HFS on work done so far and indicated that Children's Memorial Hospital staff are interested in working with the department as it moves to implement All Kids.

Dr. Murphy advised that she is working with HFS medical advisor Dr. Stephen Saunders' workgroup on physician-oriented issues.

Dr. Perry asked if all medical services would be covered under All Kids. Dr. Murphy advised that all services except non-emergency transportation and waiver services would be covered.

Dr. Murphy stated that there are advantages for doctors to participate in All Kids. A key advantage is payment on a 30-day payment cycle. Another advantage is that doctors, like dentists, may tag patients and be promised a certain caseload. This allows the doctor to see specific patients or have only a specific number of patients.

Dr. Murphy shared that physician enrollment has increased by about 1,500.

HFS is looking at disease management models like "Bend the Trend", to find the best option for Illinois. We are looking at ER management with appropriate referrals to community services such as mental health.

Dr. Murphy advised that RFPs would be issued. She emphasized that HFS would focus on health care models that are patient friendly. She and HFS Director Barry Maram would be happy to meet with vendors to hear presentations on topics related to the All Kids implementation. However, no information regarding the RFP could be shared due to the strict procurement rules.

Laura Leon noted that marketing should be linked with enrollment and that an effective marketing strategy includes "putting a face" on All Kids.

Dr. Murphy agreed with her observation and added that it is easy to do commercials but we also want to link the media campaign with sign-ups. She added that different entities have special skills – some are good with marketing while some are better at reaching out.

V. Old Business

KidCare/FamilyCare. Deborah Watkins, KidCare Central Unit (KCU) manager, provided an update on the KidCare/FamilyCare program. There are about 3,000 pending applications. Complete applications are currently processed within 12 days.

The FamilyCare income standard will be expanded to 185 percent of the federal poverty level effective January 1, 2006. A mailing went to all active Share/Premium /Rebate families in October informing them of the expansion. A request to add parents was enclosed. As of November 14th, almost 2,000 requests to add over 2,700 parents had been received. KidCare began enrolling parents at intake on November 16th effective for January 1, 2006 coverage.

The web-based interactive application was implemented statewide on August 11, 2005. Since then, KidCare has received 5,728 web applications: 3,748 from the general public and 1,980 from KCAAs. The department is offering training and technical support to KCAAs to encourage usage of the application.

It was noted that the November report handout was not included but will be added to the packet for the next MAC meeting.

Medicare Part D. Ms. Ellinger reported that HFS is getting the message out, in part, through the Public Education Workgroup. The message is two-part: Part 1 on dual-eligibles and; Part 2 is for current enrollees in SeniorCare.

Dual-eligibles are getting information through the Illinois Health Benefits Hotline and were sent a letter in September. The letter didn't distinguish between dual-eligible and disability participants. Persons with Medicare and in one of the special medical groups, e.g., QMB, SLIB or QI-1 also received a letter in September directing them to enroll for Medicare Part D with 2 telephone numbers to call – the Senior Helpline and Senior Health Insurance Program.

All persons receiving medical benefits under the Aged, Blind and Disabled programs, except nursing home residents, will receive an insert reminder with their November and December medical cards. The reminder tells clients that starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will pay for prescription drugs and encourages clients to choose and join a Medicare prescription drug plan.

The department has shared enrollment information with education workgroups and advocates. We may need to communicate more with pharmacists to ensure that information provided to clients is consistent.

The Illinois Cares Rx caravan continues to tour the state to talk about Medicare, SeniorCare, Circuit Breaker and Medicaid. We hear the stories of confusion for participants. We will continue to explain the changes, but expect it will take a long time for clients to understand.

Illinois will have 15 stand alone prescription drug plans (PDPs) from 12 different companies that will not cost a person more than the average premium. Two stand alone plans will coordinate benefits with Illinois Cares Rx. These are PacifiCare Saver plan and AARP Medicare Rx of United HealthCare. A combination of Federal low-income subsidy coverage and Illinois Cares Rx will allow coverage similar to current SeniorCare and Circuit Breaker.

Dr. Murphy added that the Illinois Cares Rx plan will do a “full-wrap” coverage based on the PDP preferred drug list and the department would do a reconciliation of payment at the back end. She stated that we are trying to make the process as

simple as possible for the clients. Auto-assignment is being done for the SeniorCare and Circuit Breaker folks.

Ms. Ellinger stated that the federal CMS had made a mistake in Wisconsin and Illinois by auto-assigning SeniorCare clients to one of 12 plans rather than the 2 plans coordinated with Illinois Cares Rx. Ms. Ellinger stated that the department is trying to get the word out and to correct the PDP assignments.

Dr. Murphy added that there is a “silver lining” as the SeniorCare persons were also auto-enrolled for the federal “Extra Help”.

Ms. Ellinger continued that from this point forward information would come from the PDP. There will be a welcome letter followed by a member card and membership handbook before January 1st.

Regarding long-term care residents, Ms. Ellinger stated that Medical Assistance cards are usually mailed together in one envelope for all Medicaid patients at a facility. The department is talking about sending a unique notice to the nursing home population to explain changes.

In response to a question from Robin Scott, Ms. Ellinger advised that the list of Illinois prescription drug plans is available at <www.medicare.gov>. There is a list of the freestanding plans operating in Illinois and a Medicare Advantage or HMO list organized by county within Illinois. Other resources with good information include <www.Illinoisbenefits.org>, Illinois SHIP and the Make Medicare Work website.

Dr. Murphy added that there are 4 Medicare Advantage (HMO) plans available in Illinois currently. These include OSF Health, HealthSpring, WellCare and Health Alliance. She added that Medicare Advantage enrollees have several options for coverage that include: 1) choosing to continue with prescription drug coverage via the Advantage plan and losing the Illinois Cares Rx wrap benefit 2) change to a coordinating Advantage plan and receive Illinois Cares Rx coordination benefits; or 3) change to fee-for-service Medicare coverage and choose a stand alone plan.

Robert Anselmo shared that the new Medicare Part D plan is an “absolute mess.” The plan is horrid for pharmacies because of all the changes. He anticipates nothing but problems for the first month and a half of the program. He finds it frightening that a person will make a decision on December 31st and walk into a pharmacy requesting medications without a medical card on January 1st. Also, because of the Medicare Part D enrollment process this situation will happen every year after open enrollment. He stated that if a patient doesn’t have a plan card the pharmacist must follow up by looking for eligibility via electronic claims systems.

Eli Pick asked what would happen if a patient needed the medication but was unable to prove Part D coverage and unable to pay. Chuck Sauer stated that hopefully most pharmacies would make a good faith effort and dispense initially without a card to accommodate the patient's need.

Dr. Murphy stated that Senator Durbin was sponsoring an amendment to allow Medicare beneficiaries to pick a pharmacy plan at a later time. Although states have advised against it, dual-eligibles will be transitioned to their PDP effective January 1st. Eli Pick responded that it would be a travesty if patients were unable to get their medications.

Ms. Ellinger stated that the issue is poor people choosing and not being covered quickly and this will be an ongoing problem. Dr. Murphy added that the Medicare Part D bill was written by Medicare not Medicaid staffers. This creates problems.

Eli Pick expressed concern for persons going in and out of long-term care facilities. He stated that currently about 20 percent of patients are in a facility on a short-term basis. If a person is lucky enough to be in a nursing home at the time of choice, the enrollment should be okay. However, persons "going in" or "coming out" of a nursing home must make additional choices. Mr. Pick noted that patients in long term care facilities on a short-term basis are the fastest growing segment of the nursing home population, growing at a rate of 2 percent per year.

VI. New Business

1) The MAC meeting dates for 2006 will be the 3rd Friday of every other month beginning in January. Specific dates will be provided.

2) Revisions in the MAC by-laws, changing reference from the Department of Public Aid to HFS, were reviewed. Chairman Pick asked for a motion to change the by-laws. Ralph Perry motioned and Robert Anselmo seconded the motion to change. The motion was passed unanimously.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Long Term Care (LTC). Eli Pick reported that the subcommittee had met and discussed the upcoming White House Conference on Aging that is scheduled for December 11th. Illinois will be sending 34 representatives with Charles Johnson elected as chairman of the Illinois delegation. The next meeting is the Governor's Conference on Aging scheduled for December 8, 2005.

Dental Policy Review (DPR). Richard Perry provided the update. He reported that the subcommittee last met on November 2nd.

1) Currently there are 3 community dental service grants. These include: Village of Oak Park; Infant Welfare Society with full time staff on board for June 2005 through May 2007, and; Milestone Center in Rockford, a not for profit agency for developmentally disabled that is in the process of establishing a dental clinic. Dr. Perry noted that the University of Illinois dental school uses these sites for interns. In Saline County, there is a full time dental component in Harrisville.

2) The subcommittee has approved an office reference manual. Exceptions for the manual are being reviewed for final approval.

3) Increased fee reimbursement for specific preventative services has been approved for January 1st. The services include periodic oral exams, prophylaxis, fluoride treatment and sealants (one lifetime for molars).

4) HFS and Doral dental are conducting an outreach initiative for kids that haven't seen a dentist in a year.

5) A final update on the system to provide care in the period from March 2004 through September 2005. There were 2,000 providers and 1,600 claims submitted. Participation reported as:

• Oral surgeons	133 enrolled	93 claims
• Orthodontists	101 enrolled	66 claims
• Pediatric dentists	82 enrolled	61 claims

Dr. Perry stated that there is a need for better reimbursement. Payments cover only 20-25 percent of overhead. Only about 27 percent of the dentists in Illinois participate.

6) The next meeting of the Dental Policy Review Subcommittee is scheduled for March 1, 2006.

Public Education Subcommittee. The subcommittee has not met since the last MAC meeting.

Pharmacy Subcommittee Charge. Robert Anselmo stated that the subcommittee will select a date to meet but not before the end of the year.

VIII. Chair Eli Pick adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The next MAC meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2006.