

ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY

Medical Care Advisory Committee

MINUTES March 1, 2018

Present

Commissioner Stephanie McGee Azar
Lynn Beshear
Conitha King for Nancy Buckner
Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw
Barry Cambron
Jim Carnes
Beverly Churchwell
Latonda Cunningham
Lorraine DeRamus
Gretel Felton
Mary Finch
Nina Ford, MD
Kathy Hall
Nate Horsley
Beth Huckabee
Jerri Jackson
Bob Kurtts
Linda Lackey
Linda Lee
Sylisa Lee-Jackson
Kelli Littlejohn

Katrina Magdon
Carolyn Miller
Robert Moon, MD
Rachel Muro
Drew Nelson
Flake Oakley
Ozenia Patterson
Marsha Raulerson, MD
Robin Rawls
Timikel Robinson
Johnathan Sorter, Pharm. D
Jean Stone
Mason Tanaka
Stacy Taylor
Varonica Wagner
Kelly Watters
Ginger Wettingfeld
John Ziegler
Kim Black

Call to Order/ Opening Remarks at 2:00pm:

Commissioner Stephanie McGee Azar - Commissioner welcomed everyone to the MCAC meeting and opened with introductions. She lightly touched on a few of the agenda items such as the Pivot Plan and the Workforce Initiative reminding everyone that these items are still in draft form and still pending a lot of work between CMS and Medicaid before the final product will be ready.

Pivot Plan/Patient First Program/Maternity Care Program and Quality Metrics:

Dr. Robert Moon shared that the Commissioner and other Medicaid staff have been meeting with various providers and organizations to assess the needs and resources available in an effort to organize and prepare the system in the best possible way moving forward with the Pivot Plan. One possible scenario could be by rolling similar populations/groups together under one umbrella, such as the Patient First Program and Maternity Care Program, while focusing on quality metrics and providing incentives in the programs to improve upon the care provided. CMS has been very engaged with Medicaid over the past 6 months and provided us with good feedback. They have suggested Alabama Medicaid not go after a 1115 waiver but rather a PCCM (Primary Care Case Management) Entity under the umbrella of a 1915B Waiver. This will make it easier to obtain federal funding for the Pivot Plan.

Eligibility Update and Alabama Medicaid Workforce Initiatives:

Gretel Felton – reminded the committee members of the new Medicare Card Project* which she had previously discussed. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 requires Medicare to remove Social Security numbers from all Medicare cards by April 2019 in an effort to fight medical identity theft for their recipients. There have been several Provider Notices mailed out to help providers get ready for this change. She shared that Medicaid is prepared to work with both the current numbering system as well as the new numbering system. Secondly, with the recent changes to the federally set poverty levels, Ms. Felton provided a handout showing the new Medicaid income Limits for 2018*. The final item she shared about was the Public Notice of the “Notice of Intent to Submit Section 1115 Demonstration Proposal” – the Alabama Medicaid Workforce Initiative. The three components of this initiative are 1) to identify individuals eligible for employment opportunities and assist them with accessing employment training activities 2) improve the health outcomes and economic security of those eligible for requiring them to engage in employment activities and 3) improve the health outcomes of children enrolled in Medicaid, by assisting their parents in finding and succeeding in employment activities. Parent and Caretaker Relatives (POCR) is the targeted group for this initiative. Medicaid will begin the federally required 30 day comment period on March 5, 2018 with public forums on March 5th and March 6th. There were questions and comments concerning many of the unknown aspects of how this initiative will affect the recipients on the POCR program. The Committee members were encouraged to put their comments in writing and submit before April 2, 2018. All written comments will be available for review by the public. Dr. Raulerson presented a motion before the Committee to present to CMS all comments in their entirety rather than a summation. Motion was seconded by Jim Carnes and confirmed by show of hand.

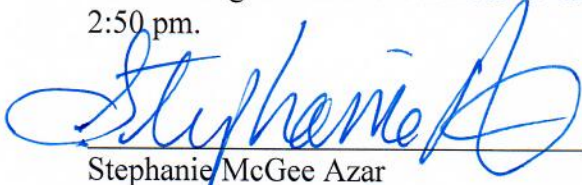
*handouts were provided with detail information.

ICN Update:

Ginger Wettingfeld – stated that the ICN updates are available on the ICN page of the Medicaid website. The concept paper will be released mid-March and a competitive procurement will be released at the end of March.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.



Stephanie McGee Azar
Commissioner









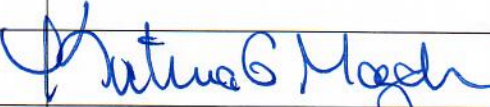

Kim Black
Recording Secretary


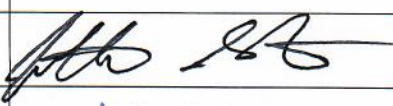
MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MCAC)

Commissioner's Board Room

March 1, 2018

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u> <u>(If Member Is Absent)</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>
Stephanie Azar, Commissioner	SA	
Jeff Arrington		
Lynn Beshear	LB (late)	
Kim Black	KB	
William R. Blythe, MD		
Stephanie R. Bryan		
Nancy Buckner	Constance	
Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw	Jane Burdeshaw	
Barry Cambron	Barry Cambron	
Jim Carnes	Jim Carnes	
Beverly Churchwell	Bey Churchwell	
Anne-Laura Cook, MD		
Todd Cotton		
LaTonda Cunningham	LaTonda Cunningham	
Cynthia Dobyne		
Gretel Felton	Gretel Felton	
Mary Finch	Mary Finch	

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u> (If Member Is Absent)	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>
Nina Ford, MD	Participating by phone	
Lawrence Gardella		
Kathy Hall	Kathy Hall	
Scott Harris		
Nate Horsley		n.horsley@uabmc.edu
Danne Howard		
Beth Huckabee	Beth Huckabee	
Jerri Jackson	Jerri Jackson	
Mark Jackson		
Louise Jones		
Bob Kurttz		
Linda Lackey		
Linda Lee		
Sylisa Lee-Jackson		
Stephanie Lindsay		
Kelli Littlejohn		
Roosevelt McCorvey, MD		
Chris McInnish		
Paul McWhorter		
Katrina Magdon		
Carolyn Miller		

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u> (If Member Is Absent)	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>
Robert Moon, MD	R Moon	
Drew Nelson		
Flake Oakley	Flake Oakley	
Sharon Parker		
Ozenia Patterson	Ozenia Patterson	
Marsha Raulerson, MD	Marsha Raulerson	
Robin Rawls	Robin Rawls	
Timikel Robinson	Timikel Robinson	
Annie Smith		
Faye Smith		
Johnathan Sorter, Pharm.D.		
Jean Stone	ADSS	jean.stone@adss.alabama.gov
Mason Tanaka	M. Tanaka	
Hope Upshaw		
Veronica Wagner	AMA	Veronica.Wagner
Ginger Wettingfeld	AMA	
Angela Williams		
John Ziegler	participating via phone	
Rachel Muro	BCBS AL	rachel.muro@alakealth.com
Stacy Taylor	BCBS AL	stacy.taylor@alakealth.com
Kelly Watters	ADSS	Kelly.watters@adss.alabama.gov
Lorraine DeRamus		

MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 1, 2018

Medicaid Boardroom

2:00 P.M.

A G E N D A

Opening Remarks: *Stephanie McGee Azar, Commissioner*

Pivot Plan: *Dr. Robert Moon*

Patient First Program: *Dr. Robert Moon*

Maternity Care Program and Quality Metrics: *Dr. Robert Moon*

Eligibility Update: *Gretel Felton*

Alabama Medicaid Workforce Initiatives: *Gretel Felton*

ICN Update: *Ginger Wettingfeld*

Open Forum

Closing Remarks

New Medicare Card Project

Project purpose

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015 requires Medicare to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. The SSN is being removed from the Medicare number to protect the beneficiary's personal information and fight medical identity theft for people with Medicare. A new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on the new Medicare cards for Medicare transactions like billing, eligibility status, and claim status.

Under the new system each beneficiary will be assigned a new alpha/numeric MBI and a new Medicare card will be issued. This change will not affect the beneficiary's benefits.

Individuals should have gotten information about the new cards in the 2017 Medicare Handbook. Medicare should begin mailing new Medicare cards to individuals as soon as April 2018. See attached chart for phased in mailing approach

Transition period

During a transition period between April 1, 2018 and December 31, 2019 Providers can use either the HICN or the MBI for claims processing or data transactions. Medicare does not plan to allow the use of the old HICN after January 1, 2020. Per legislative requirement, CMS must mail out all new Medicare cards by April 2019. Alabama Medicaid has already processed almost 1,000 new Medicare numbers in our system without any issues.

Alabama Medicaid and DXC are up-to date with testing to ensure our systems can process claims correctly with the new numbers.

Provider Readiness

How can providers get ready for the changes?

- Ask your billing and office staff if your system can accept the new 11 digit alpha numeric MBI. If your system cannot accept the new number, system changes should be made by April 2018
- If providers use vendors to bill Medicare, ask them about their MBI practice management system changes and make sure they are ready for the change
- Verify your patients' addresses:
If the address you have on file is different than the address you get in electronic eligibility transaction responses, ask your patients to contact Social Security and update their Medicare records. This may require coordination between your billing and office staff.
- Remind your patients to bring their new Medicare cards to their appointments

For information go to: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Providers/Providers.html>

New Medicare Card Phased Mailing Approach

Wave	States Included	Card Mailing Timeframe
1.	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	April – June 2018
2.	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon	April – June 2018
3.	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	After June 2018
4.	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	After June 2018
5.	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	After June 2018
6.	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	After June 2018
7.	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	After June 2018

Medicaid Income Limits for 2018

To qualify for Medicaid through SSI the income limit for an aged, blind or disabled individual cannot exceed \$770 per month or \$1,145 for a couple. In addition, resource limits apply. For an individual the resources cannot exceed \$2,000 per month or \$3,000 per month for a couple. Some examples of resources are: cash, money in checking and savings accounts, loans, promissory notes, stocks, bonds, time deposits (certificates of deposit, annuities, etc), mutual funds, mineral and timber rights, real estate, etc. Individuals must apply with the Social Security Administration for the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Program.

Nursing Home (Institutionalized) Medicaid:

The Medicaid income limit for individuals eligible for the Nursing Home (institutional) program is \$2,250 per month. The resource limit is \$2,000 as of the first day of the month. Please see the "Medicaid for the Elderly and Disabled" handout for detailed information.

Home and Community Based Waivers:

The income limits for these waivers are as follows:

- Elderly and Disabled Waiver is \$2,250 per month.
- Independent Living Waiver is \$2,250 per month.
- Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Waiver is \$2,250 per
- Technology Assisted Waiver for Adults is \$2,250 per month.

The resource limit for these waivers is \$2,000 per month.

Medicare Savings Programs:

QMB or Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (effective 02/2018):

- Income cannot exceed \$1,032 per month for an individual.
- Income cannot exceed \$1,392 per month for a couple.

SLMB or Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (effective 02/2018):

- Income cannot exceed \$1,234 per month for an individual.
- Income cannot exceed \$1,666 per month for a couple.

QI-1 or Qualified Individual (effective 02/2018):

- Income cannot exceed \$1,386 per month for an individual.
- Income cannot exceed \$1,872 per month for a couple.

NOTE: The resource limits do not apply for these Medicare savings programs. If both spouses are on Medicare, their combined income cannot exceed the couple income limit. If only one spouse has Medicare, then the Medicare spouse who is applying can have income of no more than the individual limit and the income of both spouses combined can be no more than the couple limit.

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) (effective 2/2018)

Plan First/Pregnant Women/Children (Ages 0-18):

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$1,478 per month for a family of 1

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$2,003 per month for a family of 2

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$2,529 per month for a family of 3

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$3,054 per month for a family of 4

Parent and Caretaker Relatives:

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$183 per month for a family of 1

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$247 per month for a family of 2

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$312 per month for a family of 3

Income after deductions cannot exceed \$377 per month for a family of 4

(Please see the eligibility requirements for Pregnant Women, Plan First, Children and Parents and Other Caretaker Relatives programs (formerly SOBRA and MLIF) Pregnant Women/Children/Parents and Caretaker Relatives) handout for family sizes over 4.)

***NOTE: The amount above is based on the 146% Federal Poverty Level (The amount includes the 5% FPL disregard)**



Alabama Medicaid Agency

501 Dexter Avenue
P.O. Box 5624
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624
www.medicaid.alabama.gov
e-mail: almedicaid@medicaid.alabama.gov



KAY IVEY
Governor

Telecommunication for the Deaf: 1-800-253-0799
334-242-5000 1-800-362-1504

STEPHANIE MCGEE AZAR
Commissioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION PROPOSAL

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 431.408, the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Alabama Medicaid) is required to give public notice of its intent to submit a Section 1115 Demonstration proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Alabama Medicaid is seeking this Section 1115 Demonstration to assist able-bodied Parent or Caretaker Relative (POCR) recipients improve their health outcomes and improve their economic stability which will assist the state in having healthier citizens.

Unemployment has been shown to have a negative impact on physical and mental health outcomes. Alabama Medicaid seeks to implement programs for the able-bodied POCR eligibility group that will require unemployed or underemployed adults to become gainfully employed, or participate in training opportunities to enhance their potential for full employment. This change will put Alabamians on a path to better health outcomes.

There are three key objectives of this Demonstration:

- Identify individuals eligible for employment opportunities and assist them with accessing employment training activities.
- Improve the health outcomes and economic security of those eligible by requiring them to engage in employment activities.
- Improve the health outcomes of children enrolled in Medicaid, by assisting their parents in finding and succeeding in employment activities.

As required by federal regulation, Medicaid is now opening a formal thirty (30) day comment period. A copy of the draft Demonstration proposal, the full public notice, and additional information can be found on Medicaid's website at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/content/2.0_Newsroom/2.7_Special_Initiatives/2.7.5_Work_Requirements.aspx. A copy of the draft Demonstration proposal will also be available upon request for public review at each county office of the Department of Human Resources and the State Office of the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Additionally, two opportunities for public comment will be held at the following locations:

March 5, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.	March 6, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
Alabama Industrial Development and Training (AIDT) Auditorium	Hoover Public Library
One Technology Court	200 Municipal Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36116	Hoover, Alabama 35216

Medicaid is also making teleconference access available for the March 5, 2018, meeting at Montgomery, Alabama. For dial-in information, please see the Medicaid website at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/content/2.0_Newsroom/2.7_Special_Initiatives/2.7.5_Work_Requirements.aspx

Written comments concerning these changes should be submitted on or before April 2, 2018, to the following e-mail address: PublicComment@medicaid.alabama.gov or mailed hardcopy to: Administrative Secretary, Alabama Medicaid Agency, 501 Dexter Avenue, P.O. Box 5624, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624. All written comments will be available for review by the public during normal business hours at the above address.



Stephanie McGee Azar
Commissioner