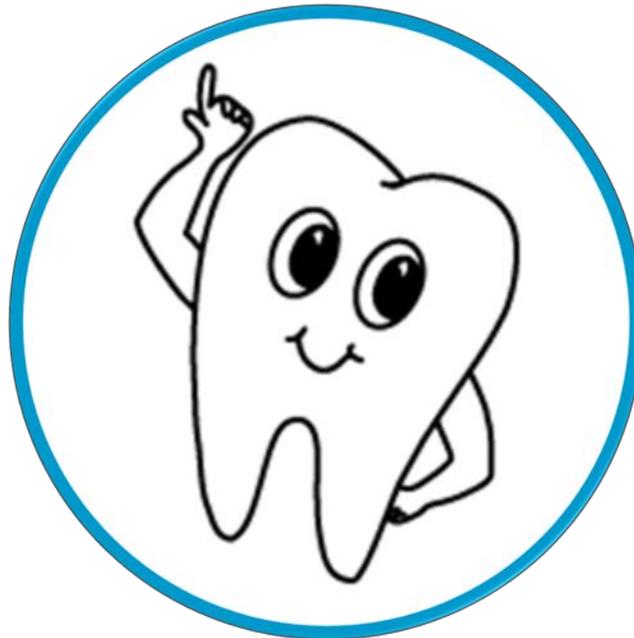


**Alabama Medicaid Agency
Dental Task Force**



June 3, 2016

12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Conference Line: 1.888.822.7517

Passcode: 803743#

Alabama Medicaid Agency Dental Task Force Meeting

Friday, June 3, 2016

Minutes

Members present: Dave White, Danny Rush

Member present via conference call: Sherry Goode, Steve Mitchell

Medicaid members/staff present: Beth Huckabee, Theresa Richburg, Beverly Churchwell, Melinda Rowe, Robin Rawls, Drew Nelson, Jennifer Walker, Danny Rush

HPE staff via conference call: Cyndi Crockett

Call to Order: The Dental Task Force quarterly meeting was held today at 12:05 PM in the Alabama Medicaid Conference Room 3-I. Beth Huckabee called the meeting to order, welcomed and thanked all attendees for being there.

Welcome and Introductions: Beth welcomed members to the meeting, took the roll call of members present by phone and in the room, and introduced people present in the room.

Review and Adoption of Minutes: There were no corrections voiced by the members for the March 8, 2016 meeting. Danny Rush moved the minutes be adopted.

Medicaid Financial Update: Karen Wainwright was unable to attend. Provided via email that there was no change from her report given in the March meeting. Beth indicated the \$84 million dollars is exclusive of \$5 million that was used for CHIP recipients. Mitchell asked is the money used for CHIP inclusive of budget requests going forward. After some discussion, Dave White indicated the federal government send money to Medicaid through SCHIP to fund these CHIP recipients. They are funded at 100% with federal dollars through 2017, although the federal government has authorized the program through 2019. He says if the government doesn't fund the program through the years it is authorized, the funding will have to come from the state to continue the program. Beverly indicated program staff will email presentation slides from the Legislative budget hearings that explain about CHIP funding.

Regional Care Organizations Update: Drew Nelson provided an RCO update. There has been no final decision on the implementation date since the decision to delay the start of RCO from October 1, 2016 was made. The readiness assessments continue as well the network access reviews. RCOs have begun contracting with providers as they are required to have 50% of their networks by day 1 of implementation. Also, over 660 Integrated Provider Network (IPS) Letters of Intent (LOIs) were received from the 11 probationary RCOs that is available on the website as well as IPS applications.

Steve Mitchell asked Drew about the financial solvency of the RCOs since there is a delay in the implementation of RCOs. Drew indicated that there is not an issue currently. RCOs and Health Homes submit financial reports and issues would be found from those.

1st Look Program Update: Beth indicated that the program is working with UAB on an evaluation and ROI of the program through 2014 or 2015. She is currently waiting to hear back from UAB.

Dental Consultant Update: Danny Rush states he has enjoyed being at Medicaid and the challenge and the backlog is now up to two months behind. Also since joining Medicaid, he said he has learned Medicaid's coverage of services are based on medical necessity. In reviewing the prior authorizations, specifically for extraction of third molars (wisdom teeth), he is denying for no documentation of medical necessity or the extraction is not medically necessary to be done. He has reached out to providers informing them he is looking for documentation or evidence of pain, swelling, or the tooth's interference of other teeth on the PA.

Dave White asked how many children have their molars removed and at what age. Rush said about 90-95% and at varying ages, but usually in the teen years.

Steve Mitchell added the literature of removing third molars is not clear. He cited the Cochran Review as the "gold standard" for evidence based literature and it shows insufficient evidence for removal or of remainder of the third molars. Other states' Medicaid policy manuals state the coverage of third molars is by medical necessity. He reiterates the importance of forming a group to review the policy to recommend guidelines for removal of third molars.

Program Update: Beth Huckabee updated on the following items:

- Welcome Dr. Danny Rush as the Medicaid Dental Consultant who began mid-April.
- PAs are being worked through quickly. We are currently working in early April.
- As was mentioned at the March meeting, starting in mid-August, providers will be able to fax or upload Prior Authorization supporting documentation for review via the forms menu in the Medicaid Provider Web Portal. This will help ensure receipt of documents in a timely manner. For dental providers that submit hard copy radiographs, these will still be accepted through mail. All other documents will be received digitally. More information will be forthcoming in the Provider Manual, Provider Insider, Provider Alerts, etc. HPE will be educating providers. Currently, August 11 is the current go live date. Mail submission of supporting documents will continue until November 15.
- July provider manual update
- July Provider Insider article reminders article sent yesterday via email
- Dental program is continuing to meet with the Commissioner regarding the future of the program. We last met with her on May 13 and presented the most recent letter and the recommendations to from the ALDA advisory group with which she felt comfortable. Through observations from Dr. Rush, there are current policies and criteria that we are enforcing which he discussed, such as the documentation of medical necessity. The Commissioner is meeting with the Governor regarding funding and possible rate cuts. We are currently waiting for our next meeting with her for our next steps.

New Items: Dave White commented that we should know something about budget cuts within the next 2-3 weeks. Steve Mitchell asked if there is anything official about a special session being called to which Dave replied not at this time.

No other new items. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 16, 2016 from 12:00-1:00 CT, postponed due to members' availability, per discussion of members.