

**ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY
Medical Care Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

April 4, 2024

Present:

Commissioner Stephanie McGee Azar
Lisa Alford
Nancy Anderson
Jean Brown
Barry Cambron
Ginger Carmack
Melanie Cleveland
LaTonda Cunningham
Gretel Felton
Mary Hayes-Finch
Nate Horsley
Beth Huckabee
Morissa Ladinsky, MD

Linda Lee
Stephanie Lindsay
Brian Massey
Grant McGuffey
David McIntosh
Paul McWhorter
Annette Mills
Kelli Littlejohn-Newman
Bo Offord
Marsha Raulerson, MD
Judy Thomas
Mike Williams

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

Commissioner Stephanie McGee Azar welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with introductions. She began by providing an update that the \$955 million request for Medicaid was submitted and the additional \$12 million to the reserve bill seems to be moving along. Moving forward with COVID Unwinding process. We hope to have the official numbers of eligibles by October 1, 2024. During the COVID Public Health Emergency, states were not allowed to collect copayments. Effective October 1, 2024, the State Plan regarding copayments will go back into effect. Medicaid will work to notify both recipients and providers.

Health Systems – Barry Cambron

Barry Cambron began by providing an update on the Alabama Coordinated Health Networks (ACHN), statewide system of care management. Medicaid is in the 5th and final year of the initial contract. A Request for Proposals was issued in December 2023 and the Intent to Award will be by the end of April. Medicaid is trying to create a more robust population-based health model, more emphasis on the medically complex and maternal groups.

NFP goal is to follow the mom and child until the child's second birthday. We now have 3 primary providers enrolled. We have increased the number of counties from 24 to 28 counties. Goal in the next 3-5 years is to have coverage in all 67 counties. Right now, Medicaid is serving 900 families and just over 1,000 recipients.

Beth Huckabee provided a dental update. Reminder adult dental coverage ages 21 and over effective October 1, 2022, will end on September 30, 2024. Effective October 1, 2024, coverage will end 60 days after the end of the postpartum period. Over 3,100 pregnant recipients have received those dental benefits since October 1, 2022. Services covered by Medicaid include: cleaning, diagnostic x-rays/MRI, extractions, and orthodontia through Children's Rehab. Additional coverage information can be found in Chapter 13 of the Provider Billing Manual on the Alabama Medicaid Agency website.

In November 2023, Medicaid updated the fundamentals of EPSDT Powerpoint presentation on the Alabama Medicaid Agency website.

Beneficiary Services – Gretel Felton

Gretel Felton provided an update on the COVID-19 PHE Unwinding. We will not know the most accurate number of Alabama Medicaid recipients until after the two-month runout period. CMS required that states complete an ex-parte redetermination process. Alabama Medicaid's renewal rate for ex-parte was about 55%. Nursing Homes and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers recipients were required to be renewed via available databases. Medicaid expects to meet the timeframe required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Alabama has an approximate 67% renewal rate of the group that has been redetermined at this time. This is mainly due to the fact that some of the recipients are no longer eligible, for example if a child turns 19 they would no longer qualify for Alabama Medicaid.

Program Administration – Ginger Carmack

Ginger Carmack provided an update on the HCBS waiver renewals. There are several recipients that have never had to complete a renewal before because they came on the Medicaid program during the COVID-19 PHE.

CMS sets guidelines on reenrollment and revalidation. There was an ALERT that was sent out in December. There were 40,000 providers of service for Alabama Medicaid. Please make sure that your provider information on the Medicaid Portal is updated so Medicaid can get in touch with the providers quickly to complete these processes.

Open Forum

Alabama has been very fortunate in that the national ChangeHealthcare issues have not caused many issues in our provider community.

Dr. Raulerson is having a hard time finding dentists in her area that take Alabama Medicaid.

Match program with medical schools for pediatricians has dropped dramatically.

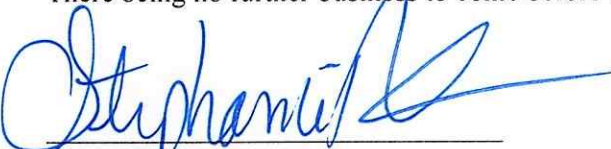
Dr. Ladinsky is seeing an influx of Medicaid recipients from the Tuscaloosa area.

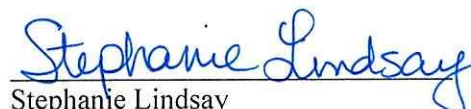
Commissioner Azar mentioned that the Agency tracks both where the Medicaid population is located and the access to services. Right now, Alabama Medicaid has adequate access to services for the recipients. Barry mentioned that the number of providers has grown over the last 5 years based on analytical data.

Dr. Marsha Raulerson brought up the need for some Medicaid children to receive Accutane for severe skin diseases. Commissioner Azar said that she and her team would investigate coverage.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm.


Stephanie McGee Azar
Commissioner


Stephanie Lindsay
Recording Secretary