

Medicaid Matters



RCO probationary applicants meet with Alabama Medicaid officials

The Alabama Medicaid Agency held its first round of meetings with six prospective probationary Regional Care Organization applicants on August 26 and 27 to provide an initial opportunity for the Agency to go over information needed to complete the probationary application process.

Applicants that wish to be considered for an October 1, 2014, approval date are required to submit all information to Medicaid by September 12. Complete applications received after that time will be considered for a later approval date, according to State Health Officer Dr. Don Williamson, chair of the Medicaid Transition Task Force. [Read more >>](#)

Suggestion nets bonus for Medicaid employee, savings for Agency

A “few simple lines of code” are saving time and money for the Alabama Medicaid Agency, the result of one employee’s innovative idea to automate routine computer tasks in the Agency’s Florence District Office.

For his initiative in creating computer macros, or shortcuts, to automate office workflow, the State of Alabama Employees’ Suggestion Incentive Program awarded \$1,000 to Medicaid Senior Eligibility Specialist Adam Letson on September 2. Letson will receive the \$1000 bonus after statewide implementation of his suggestion is completed in the next six months.



“There are many tasks performed in our office on a daily basis that consist of repetitive computer work, such as marking cases that their reviews have been received or finishing Medicare Savings Program reviews,” Letson said in his application. [Read more >>](#)



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Pilot project connects physicians to state health information exchange

Thirteen. It's a small number, but a big milestone for Medicaid technology professionals who this month marked another "first" in their quest to connect various electronic health record systems (EHRs) to One Health Record®, Alabama's electronic health information exchange.

The latest effort, the connection of 13 physician practices to the state's cloud-based exchange, marked the first time that individual providers agreed to connect to the state system simply by connecting to their own in-office electronic health record system, regardless of the brand of system used. In the first round of connections, four different vendors will be involved.

With the new connections, providers will be able to securely retrieve information while receiving notices when their patients are admitted, discharged or transferred between hospital and home or other care location. The system also allows for the exchange of patient information between primary care providers and specialists who have connected as well.

According to HIE Operations Consultant Bill Mixon, the connections are continuation of a pilot project in east Alabama to help providers test new technology to securely exchange patient data. The pilot project will eventually connect electronic health record systems at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, Lanier Memorial Hospital in Valley, four referring clinics in the area and approximately 15 local physicians. The Opelika hospital connected to the system in 2013. [Read more >>](#)



Program Integrity Director Thomas elected NAMPI vice president

Jacqueline Thomas, Director of Program Integrity for the Alabama Medicaid Agency, has been elected Vice President/President Elect of the National Association for Medicaid Program Integrity (NAMPI) at the group's annual meeting in August 2014.



NAMPI was begun in 1985 with a mission to safeguard the fiscal, operational and program integrity of Medicaid programs while enhancing communication between members and other agencies, utilizing most current technology and methodology in the dissemination of collective information to members and the federal government. NAMPI's membership currently consists of managers, nurses, investigators, managed care staff, attorneys, pharmacists and others whose primary task is to investigate fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program.

An Agency employee since 1990, Mrs. Thomas is currently responsible for the oversight of all activities surrounding the identification and prevention of fraud, waste, and abuse. This includes oversight of the Recovery Audit Contractor Program and ensuring that the Agency is in compliance with all aspects of the Affordable Care Act. The units within Program Integrity include Investigations, Provider Review, Recipient Review, Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) and Enrollment and Sanction. Prior to her appointment as director in 2000, she held various positions within the Agency to include Medicaid Eligibility Specialist (MES), Eligibility Division and Associate Director, Plan Monitoring, Managed Care Division.

Mrs. Thomas is a native of Alabama and holds a degree in Business Administration from Alabama A&M University. [Read more >>](#)

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