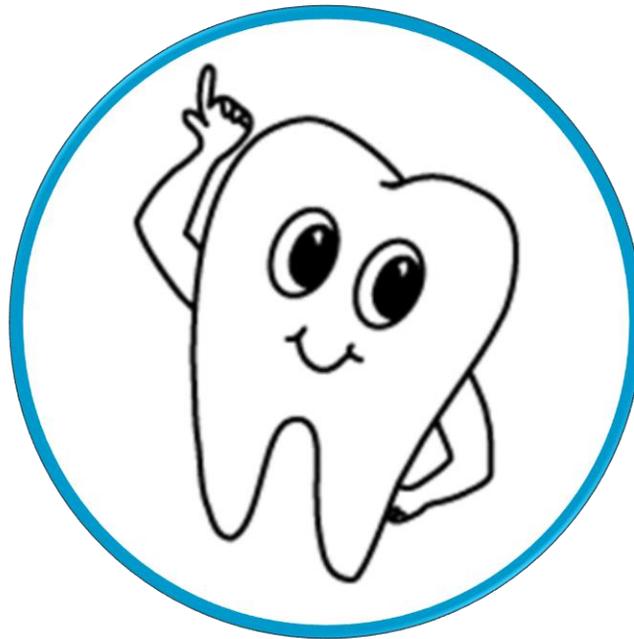


**Alabama Medicaid Agency
Dental Task Force**



December 8, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Conference call line: 1-888-822-7517

Passcode: 803743#

Alabama Medicaid Agency Dental Task Force Meeting

Friday, December 8, 2017

Minutes

Members present: Danny Rush, Dave White, Zack Studstill

Members present via conference call: Tommy Johnson

Medicaid members/staff present: Beth Huckabee, Beverly Churchwell, Robert Moon, Bettye Blount, Melinda Rowe, Robin Rawls, and David McIntosh

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions: The Dental Task Force quarterly meeting was held today at 2:05 PM in the Alabama Medicaid Agency, Conference room 8-D. Beth Huckabee called the meeting to order, took the roll call of members present and introduced Medicaid staff present. Attendees were thanked for their attendance and support of the Dental program. She welcomed Dr. Tommy Johnson, the new State Dental Director with ADPH.

Review and Adoption of Minutes: There were no corrections or additions to the previous meeting minutes. Since there were 4 members of the group present, adoption of the minutes will be postponed until the March 2018 meeting.

Medicaid Financial Update: David McIntosh of the Financial Division provided the following financial update with the members:

Finance Update:

- FY17 Final Provider Payroll Expenditures
 - Dental \$73,553,085
 - CHIP Dental \$17,122,666
 - TOTAL program expenditures of \$90,675,751
- FY18 budget - \$75,026,721
- FY19 budget - \$76,527,256

David also explained the impact on Medicaid's budget if CHIP is not renewed. The State will start paying the larger FMAP portion of the dollars spent rather than none currently as CHIP has been 100% federally funded in past years. This would impact the Dental budget as well as the overall Medicaid budget.

Managed Care Update: Dr. Moon shared the Agency continues to work on the pivot plan as an alternative to the RCO program based largely on the current Health Homes. He hopes there will be more information to share at the next meeting.

Dental Consultant Update: Danny Rush brought the following items up for discussion:

- Silver diamine fluoride (SDF)— literature shows good results of using SDF when decay is found upon examination. Using SDF essentially stops the decay. He will continue to

research and bring more information at the next meeting. Members expressed great interest and were encouraged by the findings.

- Other services being researched also are distal shoe maintainers and D2929 – prefab zirconia crowns.
- Costs of these services will be considered in reviewing.

Program Update: Beth Huckabee updated on the following items:

- The changes to the Dental program outlined in the November 13, 2017 provider ALERT went into effect. There were no questions about them.
- The Dental program statistics spreadsheet was updated effective 12/7/17 and is posted on the website.
 - One new piece of information has been added: Average number of eligibles. This is the arithmetic average of the unduplicated number of individuals under 21 who were enrolled in Medicaid in each month of the fiscal year.
 - The percentages of utilization, diagnostic services, preventive services, and treatment services continue to be based on the number of eligibles under 21.
- Beth asked initial thoughts on Teledentistry. Members voiced there is not much that can be done with Teledentistry, except that in rural areas should a person seek emergency treatment for pain, a well-trained dental hygienist can be available at sites to assess pain and do an initial exam. A dentist can then be contacted via telemedicine for further assessment or possible treatment options. Beth mentioned other areas of Medicaid and commercial carriers are expanding coverage of telemedicine and the Agency will continue to review the latest literature and medical news.
 - Studstill mentioned the Montgomery area ED pilot program for patients that come in the ED with dental pain or seeking treatment. They are referred to a local area dentist for treatment after receiving an over-the-counter pain reliever and antibiotics if needed. He said the local hospitals have seen good results in lower costs.

New Items: No new items.

No other new business. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 PM, conference room 8-D.