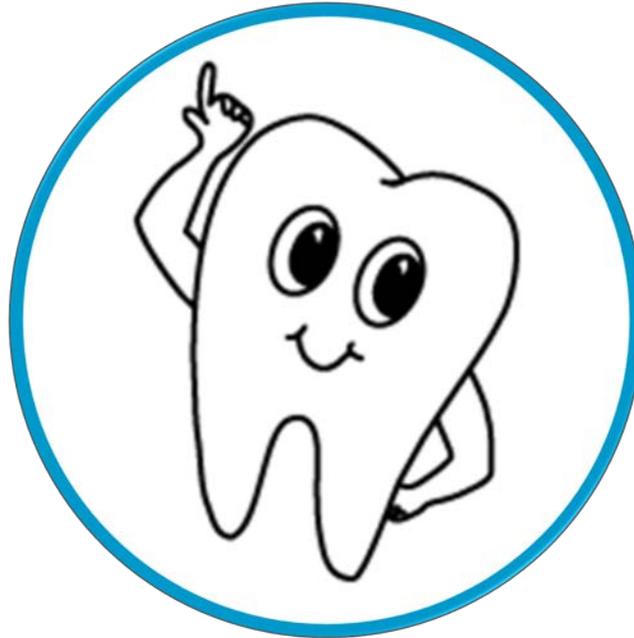


Alabama Medicaid Agency Dental Task Force



June 5, 2015

12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Conference Line: 1.888.658.5269

Passcode: 803743#

Alabama Medicaid Dental Task Force Meeting Friday, June 5, 2015

Members present via conference call: Max Mayer, Stephen Mitchell, Robert Meador, and Zack Studstill

Medicaid members/staff present: Melinda Rowe, Theresa Richburg, Beverly Churchwell, Kathy Hall, Drew Nelson, Robert Kelly, Carolyn Miller, and Beth Huckabee

HP members present via conference call: Misty Nelson

Call to Order: The Dental Task Force Meeting was held today at 12:02 p.m. in the Alabama Medicaid Conference Room 3-I. Beverly Churchwell called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

Welcome and Introduction: Beverly Churchwell welcomed members to the meeting and moved forward with roll call of the Dental Task Force members as well as introductions for Medicaid team/staff members in attendance.

Review and adoption of minutes: Zack Studstill stated a correction: to add Christine King, Public Policy Manager to the list for Sarrell Dental on the ADA Advisory Committee. Minutes accepted with the correction from the March 6, 2015 Dental Task Force Meeting.

Introduction of Elizabeth Huckabee (Beth) as Dental Team Lead: Beverly Churchwell welcomed newest member to the Medical Support Unit Beth Huckabee as the Dental Team Lead. Members welcomed her on board.

Dental Consultant Update: Max Mayer discussed the possibility of Medicaid increasing the recipient age limit for dental sealants to age fifteen. Mayer opened discussion with the members and acknowledged that he is under the impression it could prove to be cost effective to increase the age from thirteen to fifteen. Mayer cited the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) 416 report looked at age groups 6-9 and 10-14. Steve Mitchell and Zack Studstill voiced agreement with the Medicaid change, covering sealants up to age fifteen. Max Mayer also mentioned to the members and opened discussion for Medicaid covering the zirconium crowns, as the material has equal fracture rate to the crowns currently covered. Beverly Churchwell indicated upon review of the supporting documentation that cost comparisons will be discussed internally and findings brought back to the members during the next Dental Task Force Meeting.

Dental Program Update: Beverly Churchwell reminded members that the Third Party Liability (TPL) portion of claims must be completed when filed. Providers should review the October 2014 Provider Insider article for specific instructions. Beverly asked Zack Studstill and the Alabama Dental Association (ADA) for help reminding Medicaid Dental providers of the requirement. Zack Studstill voiced agreement and Medicaid will provide a news article to ADA for reference.

Medicaid Financial Update: Robert Kelly informed members that the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Agency) received an appropriation of the \$615 million from the Alabama General Fund for fiscal year 2014. At the end of the year, the Agency had a cash surplus of \$50 million which carried over into FY 2015.

For fiscal year 2015, the Agency received an appropriation of \$685 million from the Alabama General Fund, an increase of \$70 million (11%) over the prior year's appropriation. Expectations are that the Agency will end the year with surplus cash of \$27 million dollars. This represents a decrease in the cash surplus of \$23 million from the end of FY 2014.

For fiscal year 2016, the Agency has requested an appropriation of \$795 million from the Alabama General Fund, an increase of \$110 million (16%) over the prior year. This amount was included in the Governor's budget package.

Currently, the Legislature is considering a General Fund appropriation for the agency of \$665 million for the year, a decrease of \$20 million (3%) from the prior year. If the Agency's appropriation is \$665 million, there will likely be provider cuts across the board. Our current understanding is that the legislature did not pass a General Fund budget and will go into special session, most likely in August.

Stephen Mitchell asked for clarification of the difference between the \$795 million and \$23 million. Robert clarified the \$795 is the proposed appropriation to Medicaid for FY 2016. The \$23 million is the difference in the surplus Medicaid had at the end of FY2014 and what the surplus is expected to be at the end of FY2015.

Regional Care Organization (RCO) Update: Zack Studstill updated the members on the Alabama Dental Association Advisory Committee that will meet in July to discuss the Dental program's role in the RCO. He states their position is for Dental to remain carved out of the RCO and eligible children are better served outside of the RCO. His planned steps are to:

- 1) Educate the Legislature through dentists talking with Legislators
- 2) Indicate how dental works best outside the RCO environment
- 3) Indicate the importance of adequately and realistically funding Medicaid in the General Fund.

The Advisory Committee will assist Medicaid staff on a report to the Governor or Legislature on October 1.

Carolyn Miller updated the members on the RCO from a Medicaid standpoint. Carolyn mentioned that there are currently eleven RCOs in 5 regions. She indicated one milestone in the RCO was accomplished in April 2015 with the expanded Health Homes, formerly the Patient Care Networks of Alabama (PCNAs). Also, in April 2015, the RCO delivered network reports to show they can adequately fund the recipients' care. In September 2015, the RCO will deliver solvency reports to Medicaid. The 1115 Waiver is still being discussed with CMS and conversations remain positive and consistent to get the 1115 Waiver approved.

Insure Kids Now Update: Beverly Churchwell updated members on the InsureKidsNow.gov information. This website is operated by the CMS and is a requirement by CMS to provide Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) dental providers' contact information for families and organizations. Alabama Medicaid submits quarterly updates to CMS, with the last update being in May 2015. Members were encouraged to remind their peers of the importance of responding to this notice. Beverly also asked Zack Studstill and ADA for assistance in reminding Medicaid dental providers of updating their information. He agreed to support these efforts through ADA.

New Business: Stephen Mitchell asked if Medicaid staff has received the CMS Proposed Changes for Medicaid Managed Care Contracts. Kathy Hall indicated Medicaid has received it and staff is reviewing it. Kathy went on to mention, CMS is trying to set thresholds for capitation instead of a range of prices/fees for procedures. Drew Nelson indicated that Medicaid is working on a quality strategy measurement tool that may be comparable to the Medicare Star System. This would help ensure recipients' evaluation of quality of care is more uniform.

Stephen also questioned what would Medicaid ask RCO to do in the following areas if Dental is included:

- Would the Dental program be included in a capitated rate and what would it be?
- Would dental services be added?
- Would medical management be added to the program to ensure recipients will get what they need?
- What would the costs be to the Agency, to providers, and for startup?

Carolyn Miller clarified that providers would contract with the RCO, ensuring they would be solvent. Dental could be looked at as well as other programs of Medicaid.

No other new business. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 4, 2015 12 noon CST.