

Sinkler-Crawley's departures from the Executive Subcommittee, she and Cariano are the only subcommittee members until other members can be recruited to join.

Daly Konrad provided an update on other transitions and new nominees for membership. She stated that Lisa Dove would be departing her role at Virginia Community Healthcare Association, and that CEO Tracy Douglas-Wheeler was interested in assuming the role as VCHA's CHIPAC representative. Daly Konrad stated that Emily Griffey of Voices for Virginia's Children was also interested in joining the committee. Daly Konrad moved for the Executive Subcommittee to formally recommend Douglas-Wheeler and Griffey to the full Committee for membership. Cariano seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Subcommittee agreed that brief bios -- and questionnaires from candidates for membership from entities that are not statutory member organizations -- would be gathered and the new nominees introduced to the full committee in March, when the committee will vote on the nominees, as appropriate.

Daly Konrad, Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) stated that her current membership term ends in February and that she plans to renew for an additional term. VHCF is a CHIPAC statutory member organization, so the renewal term will be three years. Daly Konrad explained that several members' terms will be up for renewal later in the year. Christine McCormick, Virginia Association of Health Plans, will be up for renewal in September 2021. The following members' terms will be up for renewal in December 2021: Dr. Nathan Webb, Medical Society of Virginia; Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse, VCU Health; Victor James, Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and Ali Faruk, Families Forward Virginia (who recently assumed the remainder of former representative Lisa Specter-Dunaway's term).

- C. Orientation discussion.** Since the Committee has brought on many new members over the past year, the Executive Subcommittee discussed including a new member orientation on the agenda for the March 4 CHIPAC meeting. The orientation will be a condensed version of the last new member orientation that occurred in December 2019. Topics covered will include the CHIPAC's history and charge, member roles and expectations, an overview of the roles of DMAS, DSS, Cover Virginia, and the Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), and the Medicaid and CHIP funding streams.

II. DMAS Update

Hope Richardson and Sarah Samick provided the DMAS update. Richardson stated that during the current General Assembly session DMAS is tracking and analyzing numerous bills with a potential impact on the agency. She summarized several legislative proposals of interest for children and families, including Senate Bill 1307, which would expand the cost-based reimbursement program administered by DMAS to reimburse local public schools with federal Medicaid dollars for student health services provided to Medicaid-enrolled children -- so that those services could include not only

those in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), but also additional non-IEP, medically-necessary Medicaid covered services. She explained that DMAS has reviewed approximately 85 member-submitted budget amendments, and these include a proposal directing DMAS to submit a CHIP State Plan Amendment (SPA) to offer prenatal coverage to pregnant women who would qualify for Medicaid or FAMIS MOMS but for their citizenship or immigration status; an amendment establishing a workgroup to study options for health coverage for Virginia's undocumented children and youth; and an amendment that would increase the age limit to qualify for Medicaid as a lawfully residing child before five years of residency in the US from the current age of 19 to 21.

Richardson stated that during the recent Special Session, the General Assembly re-allotted funds for the 12-month postpartum coverage extension for FAMIS MOMS. She explained that Virginia is preparing an application to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to amend the CHIP 1115 demonstration that authorizes the program, and that the 30-day public comment period for the waiver amendment application is expected to commence in late February.

Sarah Hatton provided an update on Cover Virginia, applications processing, and open enrollment. She explained that DMAS is in the process of transitioning Cover Virginia operations to a new contractor. This transition is intended to be as seamless as possible from the perspective of applicants and members. The Cover Virginia website is also undergoing improvements.

Hatton explained that a system change was being implemented on 2/15 to mitigate a duplicate application issue identified in the receipt of applications from the Federal marketplace. It seems that the same applications are being submitted multiple times each time an applicant goes into an application-in-progress to make edits and updates. Hatton explained that an application task-force consisting of 65 DMAS and DSS employees are working internally to assist in expediting applications processing.

Hatton updated the Executive Subcommittee on the project to improve eligibility related letters. The letters have been completely overhauled, and many duplicative and unnecessary letters have been retired to streamline communications. The new MMIS letters will launch in March. In addition, letters in VaCMS are being translated into multiple languages and these are scheduled to begin going out in June. All letters will be translated into Amharic, Arabic, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese, however all letters also include documentation in the top 17 languages in Virginia detailing how customers can receive translations in their native language, as well as in different formats.

III. Discussion: Improving CHIPAC-DMAS collaboration

Hatton updated the Subcommittee on the status of CHIPAC's request to improve CHIPAC-DMAS collaboration. She explained that DMAS Policy staff presented to the agency's executive leadership regarding CHIPAC's requested process changes to

improve communication and collaboration. CHIPAC requested an increased DMAS data presence at meetings, as well as increased participation by key subject matter experts and agency leadership. The Committee sought ideas for how DMAS can more actively engage the committee in decision-making – particularly on emerging projects – to increase opportunities for CHIPAC to offer timely and actionable recommendations. Hatton stated that the DMAS leadership team was fully supportive of these requests and would like to work with CHIPAC to help support these goals.

The Executive Subcommittee discussed next steps. DMAS Policy staff agreed to check in with DMAS leadership in advance of quarterly Executive Subcommittee meetings to solicit input regarding projects DMAS would like to discuss with CHIPAC and to invite subject matter experts on key topics to attend meetings.

Richardson pointed out a list on the back of the meeting agenda of topics of interest compiled from the Committee's most recent strategic planning survey. The Executive Subcommittee added an agenda item for the upcoming meeting to report to the full committee on the new model for CHIPAC-DMAS collaboration, and to include discussion and public comment on the forthcoming FAMIS MOMS postpartum coverage waiver amendment as a topic to kick off the collaboration.

IV. VDSS Update

A VDSS representative was not present at the meeting.

V. Agenda items for the March 4, 2021 Full Committee Meeting

It was determined that an additional 30 minutes would be added to the March 4 meeting to allow for a greater time cushion given the substantial agenda. The meeting time would be extended to 1-3:30 PM.

The Subcommittee agreed on the following draft agenda for the March 4 Full Committee Meeting:

- 1) Welcome and brief overview of electronic meeting format and procedures**
- 2) CHIPAC Business**
 - a. Review/approval of minutes from prior meeting**
 - b. Membership update; new nominees for membership**
 - c. CHIPAC Orientation**
- 3) CHIPAC-DMAS collaboration: Postpartum coverage waiver amendment discussion**
- 4) DMAS Update**
 - a. Dashboard review**
 - b. Legislative update**
 - c. Cover Virginia / other updates**
- 5) VDSS Update**
- 6) Agenda for next CHIPAC Meeting**
- 7) Public Comment**

IV. Public Comment

LeVar A. Bowers submitted the following written public comment:

I wanted to ask the committee about Cover Virginia and the DMAS Stars program. DMAS Stars was a program that was suspended during Covid, and I wanted to know if there was a plan to bring it back and or expand it? Although DMAS staff involved were volunteers, I believe the model could be very effective in closing some of the access, education and coverage gaps in under served communities. Also I had General Assembly questions regarding several house bills and how or if they could or would apply to this group's Health Equity Initiative:

HB 1987: Telemedicine; Coverage of Telehealth services by an insurer

HB 2197: Individuals with intellectual disabilities, DMAS study use of virtual support

HB 2212: Children's Services Act, effective monitoring and implementation

Again, thanks for all this team's hard work and dedication. I hope this year continues to build on your ability to positively impact change and the desired goals and outcomes you've established.

The Executive Subcommittee and DMAS staff corresponded with Mr. Bowers after the meeting to follow up on these comments.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.