



MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2020
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

This meeting was held via teleconference due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The following CHIPAC Executive Subcommittee members were present:

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| • Denise Daly Konrad | Chair of CHIPAC |
| • Carla Hegwood | Member at Large |
| • Sara Cariano | Member at Large |

The following CHIPAC Executive Subcommittee members sent a substitute:

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| • Sherry Sinkler-Crawley sent | Member at Large |
| Ashley Carter-Johnson | |

The following DMAS staff members were present:

- Rebecca Anderson, Manager, Policy Research and Analysis, Policy Planning and Innovation Division
- Hope Richardson, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Planning and Innovation Division
- Jessica Annecchini, Senior Administration Project Coordinator

Minutes

Denise Daly Konrad, Chair of CHIPAC, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. Members introduced themselves and attendance was taken.

I. CHIPAC Business

- A. Review and approval of minutes from previous Executive Subcommittee meeting.** Executive Subcommittee members reviewed the minutes from the August 7 Executive Subcommittee meeting. Sara Cariano, Virginia Poverty Law Center, moved to accept the minutes. Denise Daly Konrad seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

B. Membership update and discussion. Konrad announced that attending for the first time were two new members of the Executive Subcommittee, Carla Hegwood of the Virginia Department of Health and Sara Cariano of the Virginia Poverty Law Center. Konrad gave a brief overview of the Executive Subcommittee's work for the new members.

Konrad explained that Michele Chesser, formerly Vice Chair of CHIPAC and a member of the Executive Subcommittee, had stepped down from her position at the Joint Commission on Health Care in October and that the Executive Subcommittee would be approaching Joint Commission staff, including the new Executive Director of JCHC, to inquire about a new representative since JCHC is a statutory member organization of CHIPAC.

Since the Vice Chair position is currently vacant, the Subcommittee discussed the need to announce the vacancy and invite new nominations from the Committee for this position. The Subcommittee discussed what the term for the new Vice Chair would be. Chesser's term would have ended in December of 2021, and Konrad explained that the Executive Subcommittee recently amended the Bylaws to stagger the terms for the Chair and Vice Chair to help ensure leadership continuity for the Committee. In order to preserve this pattern, a new Vice Chair could complete Chesser's term in progress and would also be eligible to serve an additional two-year term.

Konrad announced that Ashley Everette Airington of Voices for Virginia's Children had stepped down from her role at Voices as well as her roles on the CHIPAC full committee and Executive Subcommittee, and this created a vacancy. Konrad explained that the Subcommittee had been in touch with Voices regarding a potential new representative from the organization.

Hope Richardson, Department of Medical Assistance Services, stated that the Virginia Hospital and Health Care Association was nominating a new representative, Lanette Walker, and that she would request that Walker complete the membership questionnaire for consideration by the committee since VHHA is not a statutory member organization.

Richardson added that the current term of Katharine Hunter of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) would be ending in November, and DBHDS, a statutory member organization, had named a new representative, Bern'Nadette Knight, who would serve for a new three-year term. In addition, the three-year term of Sherry Sinkler-Crawley of VDSS was also coming to an end in November; Konrad and Richardson stated that they would reach out to Sinkler-Crawley to ascertain whether she would be renewing for an additional term.

Konrad stated that her current membership term ends in February and that she plans to renew for an additional term. There appear to be no other membership terms coming to a close until the end of 2021.

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 December, when the committee will vote on the nominees, as appropriate.

II. DMAS Update

Hope Richardson provided the DMAS update. Richardson stated that children and pregnant women's overall enrollment numbers continue to increase during the pandemic and public health emergency. As of November 1, FAMIS enrollment was estimated at 77,987; M-CHIP (children enrolled in the Medicaid program with funding provided through CHIP/Title XXI dollars) enrollment was at 78,244; FAMIS MOMS enrollment was at 1,495. Medicaid children's enrollment was at 578,468 and Medicaid pregnant women's enrollment was at 20,215. Richardson and Konrad directed members to the DMAS website (www.dmas.virginia.gov) for additional data and dashboards, under "DMAS Open Data" in the left-hand menu on the homepage. Konrad noted that it would be helpful to remind the full committee about the data and dashboards available through DMAS Open Data at a future meeting.

Richardson provided updates on several DMAS projects. She explained that the General Assembly had recently re-allotted funds for the 12-month postpartum coverage extension for FAMIS MOMS and to lift Virginia's "40 quarters" work requirement for lawful permanent residents, and that, pending the Governor's approval of the Special Session budget, work was proceeding to secure the necessary federal approval and implement these changes. With regard to the extension of postpartum coverage for FAMIS MOMS, Richardson explained that Virginia would need to submit an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to amend the CHIP 1115 demonstration that authorizes the program. She explained that DMAS is seeking clarification from CMS regarding the public notice and amendment application content requirements in order to finalize the timeline for submission of the waiver amendment application.

Richardson stated that a legislative report will soon be released with DMAS' findings on the General Assembly recommendation to develop a plan to merge Virginia's two Medicaid managed care programs, Medallion 4.0 and Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus. Richardson explained that the report will include recommendations to streamline the children's programs by adopting a full CHIP-Medicaid expansion program. This would extend comprehensive Medicaid children's benefits, including the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, to FAMIS children, and would formally end the current cost-sharing requirements in the FAMIS program. Richardson stated that these and other recommendations in the report are geared toward streamlining processes and simplifying administration of the programs.

Rebecca Anderson, DMAS, provided an update on the forthcoming DMAS legislative report on the topic of potentially expanding Medicaid-funded school health services outside the individualized education program (IEP). Anderson stated that DMAS solicited input from DOE and other stakeholders in the development of the report. The report presents policy options and recommends specific services that could be considered for expansion. Carla Hegwood, VDH, asked which school health services are being considered for expansion. Anderson stated that the initial focus would be on school nursing services and behavioral health services.

Sara Cariano asked about Cover Virginia wait times and what is being done to improve them. Jessica Anecchini, DMAS, explained that DMAS holds meetings with Conduent three times a week, and they are working together to understand the root causes of why call volumes are so high and why wait times are so long. Challenges that need to be addressed include high absentee rates, call volumes that are much higher than anticipated, and staff capacity. While new staff have been hired, these individuals are still undergoing training and not fully on-boarded yet. Renewal notifications also contributed to an increase in call volumes.

III. VDSS Update

Ashley Carter-Johnson, Medical Assistance Consultant, provided an update from the Virginia Department of Social Services. Carter-Johnson explained that the federal public health emergency was extended through the end of January and that temporary flexibilities to facilitate response to the COVID-19 crisis remain in place. During the emergency period, local departments of social services (LDSS) cannot reduce or terminate coverage in most instances. Carter-Johnson stated that, per updated guidance from CMS, notable exceptions are CHIP and CHIPRA-214 (lawfully residing pregnant women and children) cases in which children are “aging out” or postpartum individuals are reaching the end of their postpartum coverage period. VDSS and DMAS are working to ensure that these individuals are reevaluated to see if they qualify for other coverage groups, and if they do not, that they are referred to the Marketplace.

Carter-Johnson explained that VDSS continues to work on ways to assist local agency workers in handling workload, including implementing automated processes and providing a weekly report that lists closures and reductions. Carter-Johnson stated that additional income through CARES Act unemployment benefits continues to be excluded and is input manually as unearned, non-countable income.

IV. Agenda items for the December 3, 2020 Full Committee Meeting

The Subcommittee discussed the agenda for the upcoming Full Committee meeting. This meeting will again be held virtually. The Subcommittee discussed continuing the conversation regarding agency data initiatives related to racial health disparities. It

was determined that VDH presenters would go first, then DMAS would present on the Health Equity Workgroup, followed by a discussion.

The Subcommittee discussed tools within the electronic meeting platform that could potentially foster increased participation and generate discussion among the members. Richardson explained that there would be some limitations given electronic meeting requirements that any votes be held publicly and that it be recorded how each member voted, which presents a challenge for "blind polls." The Subcommittee determined that the chat feature would be useful, and that members could be asked a question such as "How does this data impact the committee and our work?" to help seed discussion.

Konrad asked whether the dashboard review could be integrated into the DMAS update to save time, with a high level overview being provided on the items that have been updated this quarter. Richardson stated that this could be done, rather than having a separate agenda item for the dashboard. Richardson stated that DMAS would likely have updates on COVID-19 and children's health/utilization, the extension of postpartum coverage to 12 months for FAMIS MOMS, the planned project to merge the Medallion 4.0 and CCC+ programs, and the legislative report on potential expansion of school health services outside the IEP.

It was determined that DMAS would inquire with the WebEx facilitator regarding availability and whether an additional 30 minutes could easily be added to the meeting to allow for an additional 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 December 3 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
- 3)** Data and Racial Disparities Discussion, part II
- 4)** DMAS Update
- 5)** VDSS Update
- 6)** Agenda for next CHIPAC Meeting
- 7)** Public Comment

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.