

Name of Meeting: Pharmacy Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting: July 25, 2024
Length of Meeting: 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Location of Meeting: DMAS – Conference Room A & B 1st Floor

Committee Members:

David Christian - Virginia Community Healthcare Association (VCHA)
Richard Grossman - Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
Bill Hancock – Long Term Care Pharmacy Coalition (online)
Jamie Fisher - Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA) (online)
John Seymour – Independent Pharmacies (online)

DMAS Staff Present:

Lisa Price-Stevens, MD, CMO
MaryAnn McNeil, RPh, Pharmacy Manager
Rachel Cain, PharmD
Kiara Jasper, MHA, CPhT (online)
Will Frank, Prog Admin Manager III
JoeMichael Fusco, PharmD
Talisha Sheppard, Health Care Compliance Spec I
Bhanu Kosuri, Policy And Planning Manager II

Other Attendees:

Alexander Macaulay
Otto Wachsmann
Doug Gray
Alexis Page
Lauren Yerkes

Introductions

MaryAnn McNeil welcomed everyone and asked the Committee members to introduce themselves.

Call to Order

Review of Meeting Minutes from December 7, 2023

Maryann McNeil asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the draft meeting minutes from December 2023. None noted.

Charge for the Committee

Ms. McNeil reviewed the charge of the Committee as stated below.

The 2022 Appropriation Act, Item 304. L. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall implement continued enhancements to the drug utilization review (DUR) program. The department shall continue the Pharmacy Liaison Committee and the DUR Board. The department shall continue to work with the Pharmacy Liaison Committee, meeting at least semi-annually, to implement initiatives for the promotion of cost-effective services delivery as may be appropriate. The department shall solicit input from the Pharmacy Liaison Committee regarding pharmacy provisions in the development and enforcement of all managed care contracts. The Pharmacy Liaison Committee shall include a Department of Medical Assistance Services Department of Medical Assistance Services Pharmacy Liaison Committee Meeting representative from the Virginia Community Healthcare Association to represent pharmacy operations and issues at federally qualified health centers in Virginia. The department shall report on the Pharmacy Liaison Committee's and the DUR Board's activities to the Board of Medical Assistance Services and to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees and the Department of Planning and Budget no later than December 15 each year of the biennium.

2024 General Assembly Updates:

The 2024 General Assembly was a budget year meaning "Long Session" of 60 days and new 2-year budget.

Mr. Frank explained DMAS' role is to monitor introduced legislation, review legislation and budget language for Secretary and Governor, make position recommendations to Secretary and Governor, communicate Governor positions to General Assembly, and provide expert testimony and technical assistance to legislators on legislation. There were approximately 3,000 individual bills introduced.

Lastly, Mr. Frank explained HB 820- Sickle cell disease; annual review of medication and treatment, report. This bill passed April 8, 2024 and went in to effect July 1, 2024.

Pharmacist As Providers Status:

Dr. Fusco gave an update on the Pharmacist as Providers program. Groups and individual are allowed to enroll in the program. Enrolling pharmacists as providers has created a pathway for payment for services provided or supervised by a pharmacist and E&M codes will be utilized for payment model.

The services using Board of Pharmacy protocol include; Lowering Out of Pocket Expenses, Tobacco Cessation, PEP & PrEP, Vaccinations, Prenatal Vitamins,

Naloxone, Epinephrine, Family Planning Contraceptives (Access to 12 month supplies as authorized by DMAS), and Dietary Fluoride

Cost of Dispensing Survey:

The Agency conducts a pharmacy cost of dispensing survey every five (5) years to support the “professional dispensing fee” component of the pharmacy reimbursement methodology defined by CMS. DMAS has contracted with Myers and Stauffer to conduct the cost of dispensing survey this year. Myers and Stauffer conducted the original Virginia cost of pharmacy dispensing survey in 2014. Ms. McNeil encouraged the community and independent pharmacies to complete the survey so that their costs of dispensing can be reflected in the survey results. There was much discussion and many questions from the committee. Ms. McNeil shared DMAS has scheduled meetings with Myers and Stauffer and will be inviting stakeholders as well as the PLC committee members to participate.

VDH Narcan partnership:

VDH gave updates on their Narcan partnership. Lauren Yerkes shared slides and presented on Drug overdoses and the decline of drug overdosing.

Alexis Page discussed opioid reversal agents and gave a review of each agent. Lastly, she shared information on the Harm Reduction test strips.

Physician Administered Drug (PAD) Program

Dr. Cain re-introduced the PAD program to the PLC members and asked for thoughts on the program and feedback to potential effects of the program. Also DMAS is interested in how this program may impact their practices. Dr. Cain encouraged the Committee to have input in this program.

Other Business

Next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.