

## *Independent Review Panel Meeting Minutes*

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|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>        | May 12, 2025            |                               |
| <b>Time</b>        | 1:30 pm                 | Time official starts: 1:32 pm |
| <b>Location</b>    | LDH, Bienville Room 173 |                               |
| <b>Facilitator</b> | Brandon Bueche          |                               |
| <b>Note Taker</b>  | Dana Johnson            |                               |

### **Attendees:**

#### **Independent Review Panel:**

Brandon Bueche: present in person

Dr. Glenda Johnson: present in person

Kevin Bridwell: present in person

Dr. Amy Himel: present in person

Kevin Guidry: not present

#### **LDH Staff:**

Dana Johnson: LDH staff, present in person

Amber Gross: LDH staff, present in person

Debra Boudreaux: LDH staff, present in person

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| <b>Approval of Minutes from previous meeting</b> |
| <b>Motioned:</b> Dr. Amy Himel                   |
| <b>Seconded:</b> Dr. Glenda Johnson              |

### **Agenda Item Minutes: Discussion and Action Items**

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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|  | <b>Meeting called to order at 1:32 pm</b><br><br><b>Roll Call</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of Debra Boudreaux, Debra replaced Whitney Martinez as the Program Manager 3 over Provider Relations and Provider Enrollment</li></ul><br><b>Committee Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2024 Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting minutes approved</li></ul> |
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**New Business:**

- LDH will report to the panel any MCO who received more than 100 Independent Reviews annually with more than 25% overturned.
  - LDH has not issued any penalties in the past, but will consider issuing penalties moving forward per Act 349.
- LDH will begin sending mid-annual review totals to each MCO.
  - The data will capture the top 3-5 providers that submit the most IRs.
- LDH asked the MCOs does their staff review medical records when providers submit appeals and/or reconsideration regarding an administrative denial.
  - Dr. Himel (LHCC) advised if a claim was administratively denied and overturned, the plan does review for medical necessity.
  - Dr. Johnson (UHC) answered yes
- LDH will begin reporting the total dollar amount for IR's eligible for the IR process, currently the total dollar amount for all IR's are reported, even those not eligible for the process.
- LDH will report the data to the panel referencing the top 5 providers, broken down by physical and behavioral health.
- LDH will report OLOL/FMOLHS providers by MCO.
- LDH asked Kevin Bridwell (LHA) to remind providers the importance of completing the electronic independent review form accurately; the reason for the IR request should match the initial denial reason.

**Independent Reviews and Independent Review Reconsiderations**

- Summary of Independent Review per year from implementation to present
- 2024 Independent Review Volume
  - Requests received for IR by MCO
  - IR's Ineligible breakdown by Provider
  - Requests received for IR by Provider
  - Providers who submitted 10 or more independent reviews in 2024
- 2024 Independent Review Reconsideration Volume
  - Requests received for IRR (volume)
    - Self-reported data from MCOs reporting
- 2024 Independent Review Reconsiderations vs Independent Reviews
- Top 10 providers graphs from implementation to present
- 2025 Independent Review Volume (January 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025)
  - Requests received for IR by MCO
  - IR's Ineligible breakdown by Provider
  - Requests received for IR by Provider
  - Providers who submitted 10 or more IR's in 2025

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|  | <p><b>New Reviewers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthony Lascaro and Luis Leitzelar have signed their MOU and started receiving IR assignments.</li> <li>• Anthony Lascaro has a conflict with FMOLHS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LDH is not assigning any FMOLHS assignments to Anthony.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Salesforce</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates</li> </ul> |
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|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Approval of Adjournment</b>   | <b>Time:</b> 2:16 pm |
| <b>Motioned :</b> Brandon Bueche |                      |
| <b>Seconded:</b> Kevin Bridwell  |                      |