



Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting

May 13, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Ann Kay Cefalu Logarbo, MD, FAAP – Aetna, **(Present by Proxy)**
Annelies De Wulf, MD, MPH, FAIM – *LSU Health Sciences*
Benjamin Springgate, MD, MPH – **Acting Chair, LDH**
Cheryll Bowers-Stephens, MD, MBA – *Healthy Blue, (Present by Proxy)*
Floyd Roberts, Jr., MD – *Louisiana Hospital Association*
Gerrelda Davis, MBA – *Louisiana Primary Care Association*
Joe R. Rosier, Jr., CFA – *The Rapides Foundation*
Joseph Biggio, Jr., MD, MS - *Ochsner*
Larry Humble, PharmD, PhD – *University of Louisiana Monroe*
Mark Keiser, MBA, MPH – *Access Health Louisiana*
Michael Giorlando, DDS – *MCNA*
Rodney Wise, MD – *AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana*
Steve B. Spedale, MD, FAAP – *Infamedics*
Vanessa de la Cruz, MD – *Louisiana Department of Health*
Wes Hataway – *Louisiana Nursing Home Association*
Yvonne Dominigue, MS, RN – *Department of Children and Family Services*

Members Absent

Damien Cuffie, DDS, MPH – *DentaQuest*
David M. Carter, DMD – *Smiles Family Dentistry Orthodontics*
Eboness Black – *Volunteers of America*
Glenda Johnson, MD – *United Healthcare Community*
Jamie Duplechine - *Advocate*
Joseph Biggio, Jr., MD, MS - *Ochsner*
Justin Bennet, FNP-BC – *Rural Health Nursing*
Michael Bodin, MD – *OLOL Physicians Group*
Rep. Stephanie Berault – *Louisiana House of Representatives*
Sen. Regina Barrow – *Louisiana State Senate*
Stewart T. Gordon, MD – *Louisiana Health Care Connections*
Tonya Joiner – *Louisiana Department of Health*
Wes Hataway – *Louisiana Nursing Home Association*

Welcome and Roll Call

Medicaid Director Kimberly Sullivan welcomed members and introduced the two new medical directors for Medicaid.

- Dr. Benjamin Springgate (Chief Medical Officer)
- Kathleen Willis (Associate Medical Director)

Kate Stewart conducted the roll call; however, the *quorum was not met*.

Medicaid Program Updates

Kimberly Sullivan provided updates on the Medicaid program.

- There are new leadership changes within LDH
 - Bruce Greenstein – Secretary
 - Drew Maranto – Undersecretary
 - Ralph Abraham – Surgeon General
- Sec. Greenstein's five priorities:
 1. Moving from dependence to independence
 2. Interconnected health
 - All agencies can work in conjunction to increase behavioral health
 3. Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
 - The task force will meet this week. It includes Kim Sullivan, Drew Maranto, the Medicaid Fraud Unit, ULL, and others.
 4. Patients over bureaucracy
 5. Combating chronic disease
- Three key [initiatives](#) from the secretary
 1. Fraud, Waste and Abuse
 - Enhancing technology with an AI platform from ULL to assess fraud, waste, and abuse.
 2. Reforming Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM)
 - Shifting from single PBM back to the MCOs having their own PBM.
 - Waiting on the date of transition.
 3. Project M.O.M (Maternal Overdose Mortality)

Medicaid Medical Director Updates

The committee was unable to review the minutes from the November 12, 2024, meeting because a quorum was not present. This has been tabled for the next meeting.

Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC):

- The back application deadline was April 30.
- The first meeting is anticipated for June 2025, with the committee comprised of 8-10 members.

Presentations

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) presented on the topics of 2024 Managed Care Organization (MCO) Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs) Highlights and External Quality Review Organization's (EQRO) Role.

[2024 Louisiana MCO PIP Highlights](#)

Presented by Kristine Hartmann (HSAG)

- Calendar Year (CY) 2024 PIP Topics and Status (5)
 1. Behavioral Health Transitions of Care
 - Re-measurement Year 2
 - 6 indicators
 2. Fluoride Varnish Application to Primary Teeth of Enrollees Aged 6 Months to 5 Years
 - Re-measurement Year 2
 - 4 indicators
 3. Improving Cervical Cancer Screening Rates Among Healthy Louisiana Enrollees
 - Re-measurement Year 1
 - 1 indicator
 4. Screening for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection
 - Re-measurement Year 1
 - 4 indicators
 5. Addressing Congenital Syphilis through Improved Syphilis Screening for Healthy Louisiana Pregnant Enrollees
 - Baseline Year
 - 7 indicators
- Louisiana MCO PIP Improvement Strategies
 - The PIP Charter identifies statewide interventions for each PIP topic.
 - The MCOs identify MCO-specific interventions through MCO-specific barrier analyses.
 - MCOs report quarterly progress on interventions and outcomes for each PIP to LDH and HSAG.
 - MCOs, LDH, and HSAG participate in regular collaborative PIP meetings to discuss barriers and share successful strategies for each PIP topic.

Gerrelde Davis asked what the timeframe is for each PIP. Kristine stated that the timeline is 12 months for each measurement year/indicator. The data in the slides are from the 2024 calendar year and were reported in January 2025.

[EQRO](#)

Presented by Amy Lewis (HSAG)

- The External Quality Review Organization (EQRO), derived from the Federal Managed Care Regulations (Balanced Budget Act of 1997), is to:
 - Control the growth of spending for Medicare and Medicaid Programs
 - Ensure development of a "Quality Strategy" for state Medicaid programs

- Ensure access, availability, capacity, and coordination of care and services for managed care enrollees.
- The presenter provided a table to compare mandatory and optional EQR activities.
- HSAG evaluates managed care organizations (MCOs), prepaid inpatient health plans (PIHPs), prepaid ambulatory health plans (PAHPs), and primary care case management (PCCM) programs as required by the code of federal regulations 42 CFR Part 438, Subpart E, and aggregates information on the timeliness, access, and quality of healthcare services furnished to Medicaid enrollees.
- Functional Approach to Manage LDH's Contract
 - Communication Protocol
 - Monthly Progress Meetings and Progress Reporting
 - Contract Management Work Plan
- Deliverables to LDH
 - Each of the activities takes a year
 - All activities are summarized in the Annual Technical Report
 - Summarized by each plan and program

Dr. Floyd Roberts asked if it is possible to identify how Louisiana ranks compared to other states. Amy stated that benchmarks can be compared in certain areas, if possible.

Joe Rosier asked if the data represents the entire state of Louisiana or if the data is broken down by region or urban/rural areas. States that this is important to identify and close gaps. Amy stated that urban/rural and parishes are measured.

Mark Keiser asks if the level will be maintained if Medicaid funding is taken away. Kolynda Parker (Deputy Director, Medicaid) stated that EQRO is federally mandated. Therefore, as long as we have the responsibility to provide that level of assurance and compliance, we will have an EQRO.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Adult Medicine** – *Dr. Michael Bodin, Chair*
 - No new updates
- **Behavioral Health** – *Dr. Lannis Tynes, Chair*
 - No new updates
- **Community-Based Social Services** – *Nick Albares, Chair*
 - Each MCO has a member serving on the committee
 - The subcommittee is creating a Resource Mapping document
 - Key community contacts listed
 - Goal is user-friendly tools for providers and communities to see the benefits each plan provides
 - All plans will submit their information by Friday, May 16
 - The document should be completed by June.
- **Dental** – *Dr. Nicholas Mosca, Chair*
 - Two new members added
 - Kate Stewart presented on the DIPP at the last Dental Subcommittee meeting
 - Water Fluoridation was a big topic during the last meeting
 - There was a discussion during the meeting regarding the cost impact of discontinuing fluoridation on the Medicaid Dental Program

Cost estimation using data from the Health Care Services Division for the Louisiana Medicaid Dental Full Payment Program (2020-2023) final report (shared with LDH previously):

- Baseline cost calculation of Louisiana Medicaid dental claims paid for the treatment of tooth decay in children:
 - # of restorative procedures paid by Medicaid = 437,550
 - Total cost of restorative procedures = \$75,459,336
 - Average cost per paid restorative procedure = \$172
- Estimated increase in Medicaid cost for additional care assumed from a 25% increase in tooth decay rate if CWF is discontinued statewide:
 - Additional procedures = $437,550 \times 0.25 = 109,387$
 - Additional cost = $109,387 \times \$172 = \$18,814,650$
 - Estimated total annual Medicaid cost for restorative treatment of tooth decay if fluoridation is discontinued: \$75,459,336 (baseline) + \$18,814,650 (additional cost) = **\$94,273,986**

Other Considerations:

- Patient volume represents approximately 50% of EPSDT-eligible children in Louisiana who received at least one dental service.
- The other estimated 50% of Medicaid EPSDT-eligible children have not seen a dentist.
- Fluoridation prevents tooth decay in 50% of EPSDT-eligible children who do not have a dentist.
- Assumes the average cost per restorative procedure remains stable across time and volume, but this could change with factors affecting the state or national economy.
- **Emergency Medicine – Dr. Annelies De Wulf, Chair**
 - The subcommittee identified three priorities:
 1. Opioid usage
 - Dr. De Wulf stated there is interest in the resource map discussed by Nick Albares for the emergency departments
 2. Pediatric emergency preparedness
 - Stalled on gathering data
 3. Violence intervention and reduction
- **Neonatology – Dr. Steve Spedale, Chair**
 - *The subcommittee is working with Tara Landry (WIC) to attain 2,000 to 3,000 breast pumps.*
- **Obstetrics – Dr. Joseph Biggio, Chair**
 - No new updates
- **Pediatrics – Vacant**
 - No new updates
- **Laboratory Medicine and Test Utilization – Vacant**
 - No new updates

MAC Awards

MAC Award recipients were members who have served on the MAC for 10 plus years or a Medicaid beneficiary who assisted with the committee as a newer member. Those recipients include:

- Floyd Roberts – 10 years, 2015
- Joe Rosier – 13 years, 2012
- Justin Bennett – 13 years, 2012
- Mark Keiser – 11 years, 2014
- Michael Giorlando – 11 years, 2014
- Rodney Wise – 10 years, 2015
- Steve Spedale – 11 years, 2014
- John Vanchiere – 13 years, 2012
- Jamie Duplechine – 2 years, 2023

Open Forum

Dr. Giorlando asked about updates on the Dental RFP. Kolynda stated it's currently with the Office of State Procurement (OSP).

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.