



**Provider Engagement Meeting  
Louisiana Department of Health  
February 26, 2021 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Introduction:** *Dr. Marcus Bachhuber*

- Welcome and introductions were made by Dr. Marcus Bachhuber.

**Interim Medicaid Director Update:** *Tara LeBlanc*

- Tara Leblanc thanked everyone for joining and for their ongoing efforts to support the COVID-19 response. Tara Leblanc communicated that the Biden Administration issued a letter to governors that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will be extended through the 2021 calendar year.
- Tara Leblanc provided the following updates on MCO contracting and procurement:
  - LDH has emergency contracts in place for all 5 MCO's for the calendar year.
  - LDH is drafting the RFP and hopes to publish it by late spring/early summer.
  - LDH has identified several areas to focus on in the RFP: behavioral health integration; child and maternal health outcome improvement; disaster planning and recovery; delivery system reform; DOJ settlement agreement requirements; fraud, waste, and abuse initiatives; health equity; and increased MCO accountability.

**Medicaid Program Updates:** *Dr. Marcus Bachhuber*

- Dr. Marcus Bachhuber provided the following updates on the COVID-19 PHE:
  - The PHE was renewed effective 01/01/21 and will be in effect for 90 days.
  - The PHE will remain in place through 2021 and HHS will provide states with 60 days' notice prior to termination. All tests remain covered at 100% of Medicare rates (Louisiana-adjusted)
  - For more information about vaccine rollout, providers and patients can check the following website for resources: <https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine/>.
  - COVID-19 treatments are currently provided at no cost to providers by the federal government and administration is covered at 100% of Medicare rates (Louisiana-adjusted).
  - COVID-19-related Medicaid flexibilities can be found in Health Plan Advisories and Informational Bulletins; they are updated regularly and posted on the LDH website.
  - Existing Prior authorizations will be extended one final time through 04/30/2021. Guidance will be posted on each MCO's provider portal next week. Providers should start gathering the information they need. PA's can be submitted and adjudicated prior to the 04/30/2021 expiration date.
- Dr. Marcus Bachhuber said that there is a website about the Medicaid Managed Care RFP at [www.ldh.la.gov/MCORFP21](http://www.ldh.la.gov/MCORFP21). Feedback and suggestions on how to improve the managed care program were due by 12/29/2020 and helpful feedback was received.
- Dr. Marcus Bachhuber provided the following updates on Provider Enrollment:
  - CMS requires that state Medicaid agencies enroll all providers; however, there are currently some providers that are contracted with MCO's but not enrolled with the

state. A web-based portal is being launched for those who need to enroll. This does not supersede the credentialing process with MCO's.

- There is an FAQ available at <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/4125>.
- Dr. Marcus Bachhuber provided the following updates on coverage and benefits:
  - Updates to the provider manuals were posted for public comment on 01/01/2021 for 45 days. Benefits coverage of developmental, autism, and perinatal depression screening begins on 01/01/2021. Developmental and autism screening is reimbursed at \$10 each. Perinatal depression screening is reimbursed at \$8.14. LDH currently has a Performance Improvement Project with the MCO's for developmental screening.
- Dr. Marcus Bachhuber provided the following updates on the Medicaid Quality Dashboard:
  - The dashboard was updated with the 2020 data (for care that occurred in 2019) for all the health plans and contains trending data for the last 4 years. New categories were added for the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) measures.
  - Retired measures have been moved to the "Retired" category.
- Dr. Marcus Bachhuber said the plan is to take a deeper dive into quality and value-based payments at the next meeting. Dr. Marcus Bachhuber asked members to send any topics of discussion to the Quality Committee email account. LDH is also still taking volunteers for Quality Measurement Group.

#### **Presentations of Special Topics or Quality Related Studies/Activities**

- Veronica Gillispie-Bell, MD, MAS, FACOG and Amy Ladley, PhD from the LDH Office of Public Health presented on SBI, Birth Ready, Gift 3.0, and LOC. Presentation slides are available on the Quality Committee website at <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/2175>.
- Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell and Dr. Amy Ladley discussed the following Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative (LaPQC) Programs and Initiatives: NOWS Pilot/ICSED, The Gift 3.0, Safe Birth Ready Initiative, Louisiana Birth Ready Designation, and support provided to update the Maternal Levels of Care.
- Dr. Gillispie-Bell also discussed the following topics based on meeting attendee questions:
  - how opioid use and NOWS affects Dr. Gillispie-Bell's practice
  - successes and lessons learned from the NOWS pilot phase
  - goals and strategic priorities of The Gift 3.0 and the functions of the Gift facilities
  - barriers to breastfeeding and the role of The Gift in breastfeeding initiatives
  - LAPQC designation
- Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell discussed upcoming activities: continuing to take cue from PAMR reports and national initiatives (AIM, Joint Commission, and CDC/NNPQC) and the exploration of a possible QI initiative focusing on caregiver depression screening in pediatric practices.

#### **Open Forum**

- There were no comments or issues brought forward.
- Dr. Marcus Bachhuber went over the Quality Committee's next scheduled meetings.

#### **Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

#### **2021 Medicaid Quality Committee Schedule**

May 21, 2021

August 20, 2021

November 19, 2021