

**Provider Engagement Meeting**  
**Louisiana Department of Health**  
**May 20, 2022 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Introduction:** *Dr. Amanda Dumas*

- Dr. Amanda Dumas made welcomes and introductions.

**Medicaid Program Updates:** *Dr. Amanda Dumas stated:*

- On April 1, 2022, Louisiana became the first state in the nation to expand Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program coverage for pregnant and postpartum people from 60 days to 12 months through a state amendment, authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
  - Medicaid previously covered pregnancies through 60 days postpartum, which left an estimated 15% of women who would lose their Medicaid coverage after 60 days. There was high maternal morbidity and mortality and a lot of that was pregnancy related.
  - Louisiana House Bill 784 on postpartum depression screening just passed. The bill ensures that women are educated on postpartum depression and anxiety while in hospital, providers monitor them for the first 12 months, and providers have the option to screen them for postpartum depression.
  - MCOs are asked to maintain a list of providers who are able to treat postpartum depression and anxiety.
  - Starting January 2021, LDH implemented a separate reimbursement for postpartum depression screening by pediatric providers.
- Providers who file claims with Medicaid have to enroll in Medicaid’s new web-based provider enrollment portal. CMS approved a deadline extension through June 30, 2022.
  - All current providers should have received a letter explaining the enrollment process. Providers who have not received a letter can request one to be sent via email at [louisianaprovenroll@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:louisianaprovenroll@gainwelltechnologies.com).
  - Additionally, providers can get a reprint of the letter. Requests for a reprinted letter will only be accepted by email.
- The Medicaid MCO RFP was under review and there was preliminary announcement of who would get a contract, but then there is an active protest period, so there’s still a blackout.
- LDH established the Public University Partnership Program (PUPP). Many states have done similar work before and Medicaid modeled efforts after those models.
  - The purpose of the program is to conduct projects that identify and address challenges and opportunities in Louisiana Medicaid.
  - Four public universities were awarded – two from LSU and two from Pennington. Projects range from 1-2 years.
- LDH is close to implementing coverage of Community Health Workers (CHW) and, if approved, it would be effective January 1, 2022. Next steps are to publish the policy for CHW coverage in manuals.
- LDH is adding coverage of remote patient monitoring technology for prenatal care and coverage of blood pressure monitoring devices for pregnant women with chronic hypertension effective May 2022. Four to five MCOs already offer some form of remote patient monitoring services for their pregnant members.
- Coverage of human milk storage bags has been added to the DME fee schedule. Focus groups were conducted about lactation support and women breastfeeding while on Medicaid.
- Expansion of coverage of lactation in an outpatient setting has been proposed to the LDH Secretary’s office. Feedback is pending.
- MCO Performance Improvement Projects (PIP) are being evaluated to increase developmental screenings. LDH added a special reimbursement on top of the Well-Child visit to encourage providers and screening has increased by 10%.

- In response to a question: if a pregnant patient is started on a BP monitor for chronic hypertension, the patient will now have coverage for a full 12 months after her pregnancy ends since the coverage is not condition dependent and would be there regardless of whether or not she has hypertension.
- Medicaid collaborated with the Office of Public Health immunization program to set up a database that will allow more timely and indirect analysis of Medicaid immunization data with their LINKS database.
- In order to increase the utilization of fluoride varnish, LDH is participating with the Dental Group on an oral health affinity project. Wellhead Louisiana and MCOs have also been involved.
- New drugs and testing for COVID-19 might become available. Check health plan advisories and informational bulletins located on the LDH website for more information. The Pfizer vaccine is now authorized by the EUA as a booster for children 5 to 11 years if they completed their primary series at least five months prior.
- COVID-19 vaccination rates among Medicaid members have not changed much since the last meeting in February.
- In response to a question: as of January 2021 LDH implemented reimbursement for caregiver depression screening, as well as developmental screening for children, including autism.

**Public Health Emergency Unwind:** *Tara LeBlanc stated:*

- The Biden administration promised a 60-day advanced notice prior to the end of the public health emergency (ending). The PHE is due to end July 15<sup>th</sup> but an official notice wasn't received by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- During the PHE, LDH is unable to dis-enroll any Medicaid member unless deceased, moved out of state, or requested a voluntary disenrollment, regardless of income, new job, or unemployment and must maintain eligibility through the end of the PHE.
  - In March 2020, Louisiana Medicaid enrollment was barely over 1.6 million. As of April 2022, enrollment is 1.98 million.
  - When the PHE ends, CMS is allowing states 12 months to review every person on Medicaid.
- LDH will be mailing letters to beneficiaries with a timeframe to return the packet. Lack of a response will result in an administrative dis-enrollment.
  - Louisiana Medicaid is asking providers to get the message out to their patients. If a Medicaid beneficiary has not received a pink letter that means Medicaid does not have their current contact information.
  - In response to a question: A recent interview with a Monroe television has been sent out to all media avenues. CMS and Medicaid are also doing media buys. They're doing social media buys and looking into radio buys as well.
- In response to a question: There hasn't been any new information from national calls about the criteria being used to keep the declaration in place.
- In response to a question: To mitigate coverage losses once the PHE unwind occurs, LDH is looking at taking the full 12 months to look at the review. Also, CMS is allowing states a period of 14 months. LDH will have to kick off everything within 12 months and then will be given 2 months of lag time to complete the work.
- LDH is not distributing renewals equally after the new system implemented in November of 2018. LDH is using this opportunity to redistribute renewals.
- There are about 3,000 members that turned 65 during the PHE and has not elected to enroll in Medicare. When the PHE ends, LDH will move those members to their renewal month to be January because that will coincide with the Medicare open enrollment period. CMS has a rule starting on January 1, 2023 stating that if an individual loses Medicaid, they can pick up Medicare at any time without penalty if eligible.
- CMS has given some flexibilities to be able to maneuver the PHE unwind outside of normal and customary procedures.
  - CMS has granted multiple waivers. CMS has also granted approval to allow the MCOs to do outreach for LDH such as the pink letter campaign.
  - MCOs mailed out 1.2 million letters to households and Medicaid only had to send about 140,000 letters for fee-for-service.

**Presentations of Special Topics or Quality Related Studies/Activities:** *Mitzi Hochheiser*

- Mitzi Hochheiser presented on Improving T-MSIS Data Quality. Presentation slides are available on the Quality Committee website at <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/2175>.
- Mitzi Hochheiser spoke at the recently concluded CMS quality conference in April on data quality and systems as a success story. Louisiana is consistently in the top three states for this.
- In response to a question about how to keep data safe:

- Mitzi Hochheiser responded right now that all of the data is managed using on-premises software.
- LDH does not have any cloud computing for that data. It's on the mainframe and the old data warehouse system. CMS has a secure site that T-MSIS data is uploaded to.
- As new tools are on-boarded, LDH will be working to build security. LDH works very closely with the information security team, InfoSec, to make sure we're using government secure and cloud secure systems and tools.
- Mitzi Hochheiser presented on COVID-19 Unwind – Data Driven Decision Making in Eligibility Operations. Presentation slides are available on the Quality Committee website at <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/2175>.

#### **Announcements**

- Kolynda Parker stated the committee wants to meet in person on the August 19, 2022, so LDH will be polling all of the quality committee members to determine if we have a quorum.
- Kolynda Parker said there are several things that need to be voted on such as the bylaws, the makeup of the committee, and the total number of members on the committee. Kolynda Parker emphasized that the committee cannot vote on those topics without meeting in person and having a quorum.
- Kolynda Parker said LDH will be emailing members to determine if want to continue membership on the committee. Membership on the committee is for three years.
  - Renewal letters will be drafted and sent out to members.
  - LDH will be recruiting new members to the committee. A nomination form can be found on the Quality Committee website.
- Kolynda Parker stated according to the bylaws, the Secretary must appoint all members. However, that is one of the provisions in the bylaws in need of change.

#### **Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:34PM.

#### **2022 Medicaid Quality Committee Schedule**

August 19, 2022

November 18, 2022