

## **COUNCIL ON HUMAN SERVICES**

### **MINUTES**

**April 13, 2016**

#### **COUNCIL**

Mark Anderson  
Phyllis Hansell  
Alexa Heffernan  
Guy Richardson (via phone)  
Kim Spading  
Sam Wallace

#### **EX-OFFICIO LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS**

Representative Joel Fry (absent)  
Representative Lisa Heddens (absent)  
Senator Mark Segebart (absent)  
Senator Amanda Ragan (absent)

#### **STAFF**

Chuck Palmer  
Sandy Knudsen  
Nancy Freudenberg  
Sally Titus

Mikki Stier  
Amy McCoy  
Wendy Rickman

#### **GUESTS**

Susan Zalenski, Johnson & Johnson  
RG Schwarm, Brown Winick Attorneys  
Sandi Hurtado-Peters, Department of Management (IDOM)  
Sheila Hansen, Child and Family Policy Center  
Jill Applegate, Every Child Matters  
Kelli Soyes, Every Child Matters  
Shanell Wagler, IDOM/Early Childhood Iowa Office  
Susan Allen, Iowa Hospital Association  
Tony Leys, Des Moines Register  
Cheryl Harding, AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa  
Russ Gianforcaro, AmeriHealth Caritas

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mark Anderson, Chair, called the Council meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

All Council members were present. All ex-officio legislative members were absent.

## **RULES/NOTICES OF INTENDED ACTION**

Nancy Freudenberg, Bureau of Policy Coordination, presented the following amendments to rules as Notices of Intended Action to the Council.

N-1, Amendments to Chapter 75, Medicaid. Amendments update premium amounts for participants in the Medicaid for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MEPD) due to changes in the federal poverty law.

N-2, Amendments to Chapter 170, Child Care. Amendments update administrative rules to reflect new federal Child Care and Development Block Grant rules regarding child care assistance eligibility.

There was some discussion on 'asset limits.' Wendy Rickman offered to seek clarification on what specifically are considered assets and their limits. She will report back to the Council.

N-3, Amendments to Chapter 170, Child Care. Amendments update child care assistance amounts based on the federal poverty level.

A motion was made by Spading to approve and seconded by Wallace. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Wallace to approve the minutes of March 9, 2016 and seconded by Hansell. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **MCO PRESENTATION: AMERIHEALTH CARITAS IOWA**

Cheryl Harding, Market President and Russ Gianforcaro, Regional President, presented an overview of AmeriHealth Caritas.

- AmeriHealth Caritas is a national managed care organization, headquartered in Philadelphia, PA.
- They operate in 16 states. AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa employs approximately 250 Iowans and is supported by an additional 200 associates in corporate and regional offices.

- AmeriHealth Caritas Iowa is headquartered in Des Moines with provider representatives, case managers and member outreach staff located throughout the State.
- As of April 1, they had 203,562 enrolled members (58% of Long Term Services & Supports membership, 21% of the hawk-i membership, 34% of remaining Medicaid membership)
- Member Wellness Centers are being developed in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City.
- They reported that Iowa's start-up has been mostly successful, with an overall smooth implementation. Minor adjustments have been resolved quickly. The majority of inquiries are related to pharmacy issues.

## **OVERVIEW OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA (ECI)**

Director Palmer noted that ECI is working toward increasing collaboration across State government, and Shanell Wagler is a key part of that.

Shanell Wagner, Early Childhood Iowa, reported:

- One of the purposes of ECI is to create a partnership between communities and state-level partners to support children (ages zero through age five) and their families.
- The ECI State Board is composed of six State agencies, 15 citizen members, and for Legislators (ex-officio). They promote a vision, oversight to area boards, and creates a strategic plan.
- The ECI Stakeholders Alliance serves as the advisory council and provides input into the development of a comprehensive, integrated early childhood system for Iowa that meets the needs of children ages 0-5 and families.
- "ECI Areas" provide a point of collaboration for local early childhood providers (a map was provided)
- The ECI 2015 Annual Report was provided. In SFY 2015 ECI supported 3,449 children with preschool tuition assistance and 9,743 families with family support programming. Of those families served, 87% are at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Medicaid Modernization Update:  
Mikki Stier, Medicaid Director reported:

- Iowa Medicaid transitioned to managed care on April 1.
- There were no major systems issues reported. Stier described the Medicaid Account Managers processes in triaging calls.
- The call center received over 18,000 member calls since April 1 with an average wait period of 20 seconds. They received over 8,000 calls from providers in that same period with an average wait period of 2 minutes.
- DHS management staff receive daily updates from each of the Managed Care Organizations as well as daily updates to and from CMS (Centers for Medicaid Services).
- Director Palmer and other DHS management staff meet monthly with association executives to receive feedback on their experiences with the transition.

Legislative Update:  
Sally Titus, Deputy Director, reported:

- Senate File 2258 (Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families) has passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor.
- Senate File 2304 (Standards and Certification of Children's Residential Facilities) has been debated in the House and now rests in the Senate. The bill attempts to address the concerns regarding unlicensed facilities like Midwest Academy in Keokuk.
- Debate continues on a bill regarding the extension of Mental Health and Disability Property Tax Levies (SF 2236).
- Both chambers of the legislature continue to discuss the bill (SF 2305) regarding oversight of the Medicaid managed care system.

## **COUNCIL UPDATES**

In regard to the managed care transition, Spading reported that she is keeping track of pharmacy issues and working with Susan Parker, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise Pharmacy Specialist, regarding those concerns.

Anderson reported that he has accepted a position as board member for a local retirement community in Waverly.

Anderson reported that new Council member, Kimberly Kudej will join the Council at the May meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council on Human Services will be Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sandy Knudsen  
Recording Secretary