



MAAC Executive Committee Summary of Meeting Minutes January 19, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Gerd Clabaugh - present	Mikki Stier - present
Dan Royer - present	Julie Lovelady
Dennis Tibben- present	Jennifer Steenblock
Nancy Hale – phone call-in	Deb Johnson - present
Kristie Oliver - present	Liz Matney
Paula Connolly – phone call-in	Matt Highland - present
Shelly Chandler - present	Lindsay Buechel – phone call-in
Anthony Carroll - present	Sean Bagniewski – phone call-in
Jim Cushing - present	
Kate Gainer – present	
Cindy Baddeloo	
OTHERS	
Diane Stahle – AG Office	Kevin Kruse – Iowa Podiatric Medical Society
Heather Adams – AG Office	Kelsey Clark – Iowa Behavioral Health Association
Megan Bendixen – Iowa Medical Society	Dan Britt – Iowa Occupational Therapy Assoc.
Molly Lopez – Iowa Chiropractic Society	
Dave Beeman – Iowa Psychological Assoc.	
Doug Sample – MAAC Public Member	

Introduction:

Gerd Clabaugh conducted a roll call of the Committee members and an introduction of everyone in the room and on the phone. Gerd stated that there should be a meeting minutes approval on the agenda and this point will be carried over to the next meeting in February. He introduced Heather Adams and Diane Stahle from the Attorney General's Office will presented some background information on the group's responsibilities as members of the Advisory Council and the Executive Committee.

MAAC Purpose, Policy, and Procedure Overview (Heather Adams and Diane Staley from the Attorney General's Office)

Heather Adams: Heather reviewed the statute that governs the MAAC council, Iowa Code 249A. She explained that the council's purpose is to serve the public and represent the citizens of the state. She discussed two key areas, "rule making" and "decision making" and how a clear understanding of

these two areas is essential for council members to be able to carry out their duties as prescribed by law. Heather explained open meetings and the importance of understanding quorum and its legal prescription when holding meetings that involve MAAC business. She also explained the importance of having an agenda and meeting minutes and adhering to the open records law. Heather advised the group regarding lobbying and conflicts of interest as council and executive committee members. Heather concluded by advising members to consult the AG's office to seek counsel as questions arise.

Diane Stahle: Diane stated that her main function is to provide representation to the Department of Human Services and that all boards and committees associated with DHS have a right to legal representation from the AG's office. She advised the council that there are three sources of information for the group, Federal Law, State Law, and Administrative Rules. She reviewed the federal law mandating that each state have a medical assistance advisory committee to broadly advise the Medicaid Agency Director about health and medical care services. Diane reviewed committee membership requirements and next steps for the Department to ensure the requirements are being met. Diane reviewed the Iowa Code outlining the duties of the full council and the executive committee, per Iowa Code 249A. She noted that the executive committee, in consultation with the full council, is tasked with making recommendations to the Director regarding budget, policy, and administration of the Medicaid program. Diane concluded by advising that anyone in this group can always contact the AG's office anytime if they have any questions.

Prior Authorization (PA) Process Update

Matt Highland advised of the informational letter (IL) in development regarding Prior Authorization (PA) scheduled for distribution late in the week. Mikki Stier stated that the IL will provide clarification surrounding PA during this transition period and will also provide clarification regarding the safe harbor period of March 1 until April 30.

Jim Cushing asked if there will be more in depth information regarding the whole PA process and Shelly Chandler asked if the Department could request the MCOs come to the meeting and have discussions around PA. Mikki stated that the MCOs have aligned around the universal credentialing, but the MCOs may have different practices regarding items such as PAs. Sean Bagniewski stated all the MCOs are actively discussing their PA practices at the provider training sessions throughout the state and that a webinar recording of the information would be available. After discussion brought forward by Anthony Carroll, the Department agreed to present a shortened version of the provider training to the full MAAC.

Dan Britt with the Iowa Occupational Therapy Association (via phone call-in) brought up the subject of PAs relative to occupational therapists, and follow up was requested on the topic. Doug Sample also inquired about outstanding PAs and how those were being handled, and was advised that the Department would follow up directly. The discussion concluded with Deb Johnson reminding council members that existing PAs would be honored by the MCOs for 90 days.

IA Health Link Update

Matt Highland provided an update on members mailings being sent before February 7 regarding WellCare reassignments. Matt also stated that there was a general reminder mailing that went out to all members and also a mailing regarding the *hawk-i* program which addresses their MCO choice options. Anthony requested an update regarding the two ombudsmen, seconded by Kristie Oliver. Dan Royer asked for an update regarding CMS and the approval process. Mikki stated that the Department is having weekly phone meetings with CMS regarding implementation. Jim asked about network adequacy and Mikki replied that 90% of providers are signed up at least one MCO. Shelly expressed contracting and communication concerns with the MCOs, and requested that the Department follow up. Dan Britt commented on some of the information available through the UnitedHealthcare provider portal for occupational therapists. Mikki stated that she will follow up and reach out to Dan.

MAAC Public Meeting Discussion

Gerd introduced discussion regarding the public listening sessions scheduled to begin in March, outlined through Senate File 505. Gerd suggested that some kind of reporting template be developed to assist council members in reviewing comments and feedback shared at the sessions. Discussion was held amongst the committee members as to the format of the meetings, involvement of the committee members and presentations needed by the Department and best ways to ensure a productive session. Suggestions were provided by Shelly and Anthony on question format, meeting rules and process, and consistency on information shared at each meeting, and suggestions were seconded by Kristie. Shelley suggested that representatives from the Department and each of the MCOs attend the meeting to best answer public questions and provide information. Anthony agreed that it is important to have the MCO representative attend and suggests that the ombudsman's office assist in promoting the meetings. Lindsay confirmed that she will have specific dates and locations for the sessions before the next executive committee meeting in February. A reporting template draft will also be developed for February.

Sequencing of Meetings

Gerd indicated he is working to develop a work plan regarding discussion topics and the appropriate timing of the topics at specific meetings. He stated that in the months before the quarterly full council meeting, the executive committee meets several times and should consider changes to the sequencing of its meetings vis-à-vis the full council. The group discussed that it would be preferable to change the meeting sequencing in those months that both the Executive Committee and the full council meet to allow the full council to meet first in those months. Staff will work on this meeting adjustment for February or May 2016.

Gerd also discussed the need to elect a Vice-Chair, per Iowa Code, and recommended it be a topic of discussion at the February full council meeting. He indicated that Iowa Administrative Rules Section 441-79.7 (1) requires a nominating committee of three be appointed to nominate Vice-Chairpersons. He recommended a vote be taken at the May 2016 full council meeting. Jim provided further suggestions about a structured agenda and topic list for future executive committee and full council meetings.

Additional Comments

Dan Britt cited a concern regarding a previously issued informational letter on rate floor that is causing confusion for his constituents. Mikki stated that she will review the IL and follow up directly. Jim reiterated that there are still some provider concerns regarding rate floors, and requested information on resources for providers who would like to discuss their concerns with Iowa Medicaid. Mikki discussed the concerns with the rate floors, specifically related to the tiered rates for HCBS waiver providers and directed those individuals to contact Iowa Medicaid's Provider Cost Audit unit. Mikki concluded by stating that discussions regarding rates related to contract negotiations should take place between the MCOs and the provider and that if there is a question regarding cost reports or rate floors then they should go through Provider Cost Audit unit.

Adjourned at 4:27 PM