ECONOMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

March 13, 2024

Co-Chairs: Trish Baker, Davidson County, Angi Karchmer, Gaston County, Willie Smith, Gates County, Brenda Brown, Hertford County

**FNS/J. Smallwood**

SunBucks: working with DPI to expand food assistance to children during summertime (Summer EBT). Will issue $120 per child. Auto qualify if attends school that offers free/reduced lunch and other students as well. Counties will assist with education, distribute SunBuck cards to eligibility individuals in foster care or experience homelessness (or who do not have a perm address). Collaborate to educate foster care workers on the program. FC workers responsible to get cards to families. Confidentiality agreement was sent out and due back by March 15, 2024. Encouraging counties to review website for information and can review USDA website. Keep eye out for additional information. Communications toolkit coming.

Interview administrative waiver – through 5/31/2024. **Effective 6/1 interview waiver will no longer be in effect**. Is a federal requirement and cited in FNS policy. All applications must be interviewed regardless of how application is received and must be interviewed once every 12 months. Will send out policy. Education households that interviews are required as it has been several years under this waiver.

NC Payment Accuracy Error Rate – higher than national average. NC is at 19%. Had to establish corrective action plan. Worked with FNS QC to come up with trending errors. Will have regional quarterly meetings. Asking counties document case record when base period is not budgeted, show calculations, review online verifications, make sure to explain change reporting requirements. Timeliness should still be 95% but state as a whole is looked at for accuracy and timeliness. In the past NC had about 4 – 6% error rate. USDA chose 2022 reported information to go by.

Question about timeliness – encourage help tickets for expedites that are showing in error and keep county rep aware. Is an issue and NC Fast is working on a fix.

**DHB – Eva Fulcher/Gina Hamilton/Sandy Danner**

E14 Waivers – continuing to work design functionality for AVS and 100% for Non-MAGI – should be implemented in May or June.

Application report – have not heard back on penalties for overdues. Still have to send in overdues to the federal. Have 12030 overdue applications including administrative applications.

8110 denial reasons – updated desk reference tool sent out. If not on reference tool must submit a help desk ticket. Make sure using correct 8110 reasons for correct notices. Failure to cooperate and failure to apply has been grayed out – hopefully will not see additional notice issues for those reasons.

Managed Care – Nursing facility admissions – seeing county is not going in an entering correct evidence needed to trigger disenrollment from managed care. Be aware of this. Case does not have to have eligibility determined, at least enter evidence to get disenrollment started.

Tailored Plans – set to launch July 1, 2024. Will be another health plan just like current. LME/MCO were ones eligible to apply to be tailored plan. Alliant, Partners, Trillium, Vaya. Will be integrated care. Providing all needs for Medicaid. Act same way as a standard plan. Will have additional services for significant mental health and physical services. Auto-enrollment will occur 4/13/2024. On 4/17, enrollment broker will begin mailing transition notices. May get phone calls around that time. Effective 5/16, members can call tailored plan and start scheduling NEMT needed on or after 7/1. June 1st – pharmacy lines, nurse lines will launch. Official Tailored Plan launch 7/1/2024. Tribal plans – gave information for tribal verifications for any tribal status. Does not have to just be EBCI. If they are a member of a federally recognized tribe or IHS eligible. Once it is verified via the email CIHA\_PTREG@cherokeehospital.org and updated in NC FAST they are exempt.

Franklin v Kinsley – opposing counsel filed citing substantial non-compliance. Each quarter a report is submitted to counsel for terminations and reductions. Each quarter 582 random cases are submitted to counsel and reviewed, and counsel will select up to 372 cases to receive the full file on. Next week, Eva will send out a list of cases that are cited as reduced/terminated in error. County will be given strict deadline. Must be reviewed and reopened by that deadline. Will have follow up by OST. Must respond to court motion and judge. OST staff understand expectation and can assist with questions. Did not take counsel findings as proof, worked with state staff and determined 48% incorrect and 52% accurate. Total of 748 cases. Level III would have at most 32 cases to reopen. Will need to document findings. If disagree with finding report to OST right away. Instructions will be included in guidance. **Critical that counties address these cases immediately.**

**OCPI/Renee Jones**

Audits – REDA audit for Cycle 2 and 3. Cycle 2 is ending. Cycle 2 will have final REDA meeting at the end of March or April REDA audit for Cycle 3 counties will not begin April 1s, new timeline will be first of May or June, TBD. Notifications will be sent to counties in advance of start date.

MEQC audit ending. In a process of pulling last sample month and then process moves to reporting and CAP development. Member compliance utilizes cases from REDA to satisfy most months of the MEQC, with additional months pulled as needed.

Providing monthly Franklin v Kinsley monitoring. Also conducted statewide CCU monitoring. Shared statewide results and error trends for training. Shared individual county results in January.

Encourages counties to embrace audits as a roadmap to fix errors. Implementing control activities will assist with reducing risk. Counties should utilize checklists shared during audits. Updated checklists will be shared. Will provide an extra level of support. Checklists are not official state forms and not mandated, can modify and use. Accuracy and timeliness will instill confidence in your Medicaid program. Can find Checklists here:

[NC Medicaid Eligibility Training | NC Medicaid (ncdhhs.gov)](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/counties/nc-medicaid-eligibility-training#REDARecipientEligibilityDeterminationAuditRound2Cycle2Counties-CY2023March2023-1982)

Program Integrity/Fraud – 4 PI coordinators in place to cover all 100 counties. Training courses have been implemented. 3 courses posted to learning gateway and additional will be posted throughout this calendar year. Listserv message will be issued when courses go live. Will have onsite and virtual monitoring.

**DCDEE – E. Hayes**

Child Care Development Block Grant – administered through Office of Child Care. Division is required to consult with various entities. On the call today to ask questions for input.

Have needs for certain types of care changed? Families need care who are unemployed, need more providers as numbers have decreased. One county – zero summer camps available.

Are there new state policies that need to be created to support parents eligible for subsidy? Would prefer a level of care instead of hours. Can we use ESC for wages? Suggestion – waiving parent fees.

What kind of training do DSS staff need? Training regarding medical deductions.

How can we improve our application process? Asked if there will be a phone application process? Can we incorporate rights and responsibilities for less forms to be signed?

County – will we receive additional administrative funds? State continues to advocate. Does not anticipate a change for this year.

Shared that new rule – NC can apply for waiver for implementation – change to cap parent copayments at 7% instead of NC’s 10%. Also requirement to pay prospectively and based on enrollment. Requirement that some subsidies to be paid through grants and contracts. New rule makes it easier to waiver copayments for certain populations (CPS for instance). Rule has change but no money attached. Must figure out within budget.

**DAAS – T. Grecco**

Effective 3/1 – team has transitioned to DSS from DAAS. Some forms will change, will get more consistent with way DSS handles processes. CQI will remain the same. Monitoring will remain the same. Meetings will be separate from Adult Services but will collaborate as needed. Will post all forms on DSS website along with DCDL. Working on manual updates. Looking at clarifying certain sections. Working on matrix for timely versus adequate notices. Will have hyperlinks to manual. Will use listserv process – DSS-9000 form for questions. In doing so, will log questions and can tell by county/region. Looking at caseloads, seeing an uptick in SA caseloads. Seeing a 33% increase in SA-IH. Will send out survey to counties for training topics.

**LIEAP – Allison Smith**

CIP reallocation survey – did not get enough to meet all needs. Continues to reach out to federal partners to ask for additional funds. CIP policy changes – effective 2/17 – webinars were held in February. CIP crisis definition updated; app dates updated to date signed app received in agency. Energy guidelines updated to match FNS in applicable areas. Several other updates. Refer to listserv message with policy attached that was sent 2/15.

LIEAP – last day 4/26 to process all applications. Please monitor all reports. Make sure all disposed of timely.

Regional in person meetings will be held next month.