ECONOMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2021, from 2:15 – 4:15pm\*

**\*PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR**

https://zoom.us/j/96083556890?pwd=aXY1WVBaRC84TDlpT09udnFKMnJyQT09

Meeting ID: 960 8355 6890

Passcode: 231126

Dial-in Number: 929 436 2866

Co-Chairs- Catherine Lytch, Brunswick County

Amanda McGee, Cherokee County

Trish Baker, Davidson County

Angie Karchmer, Gaston County

**DHB** Eva Fulcher/Carolyn McClanahan 30 mins

Medicaid Transformation and general Medicaid updates

Staff should be checking status in benefit history in NCF to determine which plan individuals are assigned. If nothing in this area, then the individual is Medicaid Direct. This is important as county is responsible for NEMT and card replacement for individuals assigned to Medicaid Direct. Tribal Option indicator or PHP listed – if nothing there it is a Medicaid Direct client

* Medicaid help center for issues related to Medicaid transformation concerns. Please ensure NCF information is correct prior to contacting OST. Send specific information to OST.
* State has been informed that providers are telling some Tailored plan beneficiaries that they must enroll in a plan. This is not correct. If a county receives this complaint, please obtain name of the provider. If beneficiaries assigned to a tailored plan sign up for a plan, they will lose benefit specific to the tailored plan.
* 1st 60 days after launch – July/Aug – “free period” for providers to receive full reimbursement for services, if providers indicate not receiving payment – send this to OST or direct the provider to call the provider OMBUDSMAN
* Individuals who choose to enroll in standard plan when they had tailored plan status. A decision was made to move all these individuals back to NC Direct to ensure individuals understand what will happen and benefits they could lose. State has removed the ability to switch from tailored plan on mobile app or computer – must submit a paperwork and speak to enrollment broker. More information in the county playbook.

NEMT Issues – state addressing concerns. State can and has issued notice of deficiency to the NEMT brokers. CEOs of health plans have been involved in discussions regarding the expectation and need to get beneficiaries to their appointments. DHB meets daily with the 4 Health Plans re: Transportation Provider used by these 4 Plans - they are required to work those directly, daily. Care managers for the 4 plans are reaching out to recipients impacted.

WellCare and One Call have weekly calls

100 Helpdesk tickets related to NEMT, many closed

Tailored Plan -

* 7 contracts have been awarded to LME/MCO
* Vaya assuming control of Cardinal – So it is really 6
* 1st On-boarding session yesterday
* Tailored Plan will be responsible for both Medicaid & State Funded Services side
* State will be doing a deeper dive in the next few weeks –
* There will be 4-5 sessions overt the next two weeks –
* State will provide updates – At some point will communicate updates to NCACDSS
* Training will be provided in Programs and NCFAST side –
* Information will come in phases
* Discussion about the 5046- There is a place on the form for managed care

Pandemic Waivers – Delta Varian impacting us as everywhere-

* Public Emergency will last through the year – probably into the new year
* We will have to continue coverage for a lot of folks who probably should not get continued coverage – same rules are in place - When allowed we will make changes –
* Expecting more guidance from CMS
* Minimal Essential Coverage –
* NC Health Choice – CHIP was not protected

ANB Pilot update

* Auto Newborn Pilot – going well in Wake. Will be adding Lincoln and Caldwell in phase 2.

**NCFAST**

NCFAST Training Certification Ashley Arrington 10 mins

* Pilot, Group 2-4 have been phased in. September Group 5 will be phased in. Pilots and Group 2 are all in. Group 3 is in phase 2, and Group 4 just started.
* HUB page is on the learning gateway. Has a calendar with all activities. This allows all members of DSS to have access to information.
* Biggest issue remains staff/counties not updating profiles in learning gateway.
* Online remediation loop (stopgap after second failed attempt on Core Functions) having positive outcomes
* Fall 2023 – Community College Certification program.

**Food and Nutrition/Energy** Jerquitta Hicks, Allison Smith 40 mins

LIHWAP

* Low Income Home Waster Assistance Program. Work group meeting to develop plan. Plan has been submitted. Waiting on feedback.

Energy – LIEAP/CIP/Cooling Programs

* Working on developing summer cooling program and increasing limit from 130% to 150% of poverty level. Adding summer cooling program due to additional funding that has been received. DCDL will be forthcoming regarding LIEAP and CIP block grant. State does not have a budget yet, therefore counties have not received full CIP allotment. Counties should monitor spending patterns. Please send message to state if your funding is low. Send email to: Jasmyne. Simmons@dhhs.nc.gov.

FNS

* Working to update COLA rates for the upcoming year. New maximum allotment amount is delayed. As soon as it is received this will be shared with the counties.
* Supplements to the max will be requested a month-to-month basis
* PEBT benefits have been issued
* Child Care PEBT have been issued, catch up issuance for childcare will be issued at the end of September.

**Special Assistance** Angie Phillips 10 mins

Updates

* Effective August 1st – Regional Model will begin - CQI specialist have been assigned. July 21st DCDL has been issued – contain a map.
* Use SA list serv for any SA questions.
* Executive 225 – extends special assistance waiver until Oct 5th. FL2 waiver due to pandemic. However, once the waiver has been terminated, FL2 will be required. Counties will start receiving emails next week of cases that will need FL 2
* NCFAST has identified 372 cases in 49 counties where the FL 2 waiver was used. Counties will be contacted if they have any cases with this waiver.
* 8/26 – 9-10:30 DAAS Program Meetings – these are recorded and posted to the Adult Services SharePoint site
* There is an adult service share point site – included data, staff, training, links to executive orders. DSS directors can obtain access to site at any time, however other staff are given access once a month.