ECONOMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2021 from 12:00pm-2:00pm

Line opens at 11:45am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/328497102668302859>

Attendee Access Code: 553-324-963

Dial-in Number: (213) 929-4212

Co-Chairs- Trish Baker, Davidson County

Catherine Lytch, Brunswick County

Angie Karchmer, Gaston County

Will Wakefield, Caldwell County

**Medicaid Transformation Update** Debra Farrington 15 mins

* Managed Care update. Review of Mission: to improve the health of NC through an innovative, whole person centered, and well-coordinated system of care that addresses both the medical and non-medical drivers of health.
* Value Based plans and payments
* DHHS remains committed to and focuses on the July 1, 2021 implementation
* Primary objective is for beneficiaries get the care they need, and providers get paid.
* Timeline: Tailored plan applications due 2/2/21; standard and tribal option enrollment begins 3/15/21 and auto enrollment begins 5/15/21; Tailored plans contract awarded early summer 2021; Launch of Managed Care 7/1/2021
  + Recommended that provider contracting deadline for inclusion in open enrollment – 2/1/21. Deadline for provider contracting for confirmed inclusion in auto enrollment 4/1/21.
* State committed to keeping counties updated and sending information to assist with a smooth transition.

**NCFAST** Dan Meyer 10 mins

* P 14.2 projects – readiness call yesterday and will be posted in Fast Help
* Jan NCF release was last weekend.
* Thank you to counties who have completed and returned training checklist
* Feb release will be weekend of the 13th – will include Tribal option updates, manual verification options, etc.
* Feb trainings will help counties prepare for Tribal Option navigation and returned mail. – 2 trainings
* Open enrollment will begin March 15th.
* 14.2 toolkit was sent out. If counties completed previously, you do not have to complete again.

**Food and Nutrition/Energy** Jerquitta Hicks, Allison Smith, David Locklear 25 mins

FNS Waivers

* Effective Jan FNS benefits increased by 15% through June 2021.
* Waiver for interviews though June 30, 2021
* Extend certifications though June 30, 2021
  + Do not anticipate that the waivers will continue after June 30th. Counties should start thinking about the transition
* Suspension of repayment waivers – month by month
* Fair Hearing timeframes
* Supplements up to max allotment – month by month waiver
* Telephonic signature through end of January – asked to extend through May 31st
* State will continue to submit for waivers
* FNS beneficiaries can purchase food online at amazon, Walmart, Aldi and now in discussions with Food Lion – hopefully will be approved by the end of the month

LIEAP/CIP progress

* Live with Epass with Lieap and Cip. Fairly smooth transition.
* 15 counties have exhausted all CIP funding. Will be sending out reallocation surveys the first week of February.
* State extending approval process for Lieap applications from 2 days to 10 days. DCDL should be online within the hours (day). State made the change, however NCF could not make the change as quickly, thus counties will still have reports with due dates showing the 2-day timeframe.
* State working with NCF on issue for two pending application (cip and lieap) for same household

PEBT updates

* NC submitted PEBT plan to USDA last week. Waiting on a response. Request is an ongoing for the remainder of the school year. Plan is more complicated. Want to issue benefits to households that were missed the first time. First issuance is tentatively scheduled by the end of January/first of February. Once plan approved, DCDL will be sent to counties.
* Will new PEBT plan – include children in childcare centers? Waiting on guidance from USDA. However, the plan submitted last week did not include children in childcare centers.
* David hopes to have more info at the 100-county call scheduled for next week.

**DHB** Carolyn McClanahan 25 mins

General updates – Managed Care

* Managed Care county playbook is being updated
* Weekly communications going out about managed care
* Virtual trainings will be scheduled
* Readiness call have begun monthly
* Train the trainer – several sessions, will be all day. Letter will be forthcoming.
* Webinar training sessions for other staff – 4 session scheduled for Feb 9th and 11th
* EB call center go live March 1st

Public Health Emergency extended through April 30, 2021

CMS has updated policies and allowing/requiring certain negative actions. More information forthcoming. There will be additional cases that we are required to take negative action

Tribal Policy has been updated and in NC Fast – evidence must be entered in NCF.

Auto Newborn pilot – changes in Feb and March release in NCF. Will pilot in Wake county first. Goal to remove work from counties and improve process for children to receive Medicaid cards at a timelier rate.

**DCDEE** Elizabeth Everette 20 mins

Spending status/provider benefits

* Ended 2020 finished staff bonus program.
* School age program ended in November
* DCDEE does not have any special programs ongoing currently.
* DCDEE is anticipating receiving additional funding to help centers and families. A portion of this allocation must be offered to non-stared center. State has through 2023 to spend all the funding received.
* Spending updates: counties should look at their smart start spending. Any counties with spending co-efficient at 100 or more should have a waiting list. DCDEE still monitoring spending, reversions/reallocations will occur.

**Economic Security** Carla West 20 mins

Vision for the future of Economic Services

* HB 630 regional support structure. Provide support regionally. Look to enhance web-based trainings. Expand collaboration between county and state as well as all programs working together work together to wrap around services to families.