# MINUTES

**State Medical Assistance & Services Advisory Council**

Virtual Meeting

May 26, 2021: 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Google: <https://meet.google.com/bxb-dntm-wsg>

Call-In Number: 1-530-500-4073 Pin: 740412416#

1. **6:00 Call to Order**

Chris Newman

# Roll Call: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

# Members Excused: Kim Jackson, Janet Puglisi & Leah Schulz

# Members Present:

# Jill Atkinson Margaret Tomcho J. Ron DeVries

# Heather Gitchell Christopher Newman Katya Mauritson

# Peter McNally Erika Alexander Jasmine White

# Theresa Buxton Josina Romero O’Connell

1. **Minutes Approval**

Chris Newman – March 24, 2021 Minutes approved

1. **Eligibility Contracts & Site Relations Update**

Valerie Gallegos



* Certified Application Assistance Sites (CAAS): Assists individuals who want to apply for medical assistance by helping complete the application, and submitting it to the county or nearest MA Site
	+ Many types of agencies can become an CAAS
		- Community-based organization or non-profit organization
	+ Identified in the Mapping Tool
* Presumptive Eligibility Sites (PE Sites)
	+ Gives pregnant women and children under age 19 temporary medical coverage right away
	+ Clinics, health centers, and community resource centers
	+ Identified in the Mapping Tool
* MA vs EAP Sites
	+ Medical Assistance (MA) Sites
		- Governmental agencies with merit based employees can assist with all eligibility activities
			* Connect for Health Colorado (C4HCO)
				+ Processes mixed household (Parents with tax credits and children on CHP+)
			* Denver Health Medical Assistance Site
			* Colorado Medical Assistance Partner at Denver Health (CMAP)
				+ Takes phone applications
				+ CHP+
				+ Buy-in Program
	+ Eligibility Application Partners (EAP)
		- Formerly known as “Other MA Sites”
		- Sites who are not merit based, governmental agencies are transitioning to working new applications from an intake perspective
		- Located throughout various counties
		- Another access point for Coloradans to receive assistance with applying for Medicaid
		- Currently helps with clients applying for all Medical Assistance Programs
		- Transitioning to only accepting new applications and not doing any case management activities
		- EAP Sites
			* Colorado Access
			* Express Eligibility Connections
			* Parkview Medical Center
			* Pueblo Step-up
			* Kemberton (formerly Advanced Patient Advocacy)
			* Denver Indian Health Services
			* NW Visiting Nurses Association
* Locate a Site: [https://apps.Colorado.gov/apps/maps/hcpf.map](https://apps.colorado.gov/apps/maps/hcpf.map)
* Public Health Emergency
	+ Currently we have approximately 375,000 members locked-in to Medical Assistance programs
	+ Anticipate that number to continue growing until the end of the PHE
	+ Eligibility review at the end of the PHE
		- details are still being worked through

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1. **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Benefit Expansion**

Victoria Laskey

* Background: Benefit Expansion
	+ House Bill 18-1136
		- Corresponded with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to determine path to open coverage of residential and inpatient SUD treatment and withdrawal management (WM) services
		- Summer 2019 - Spring 2020: Statewide process to inform and engage partners, stakeholders, and public
		- November 2020
			* Medicaid State Plan Amendment (for coverage in non-IMDs) approved
			* Section 1115 SUD demonstration waiver application (for coverage of SUD stays in IMDs) approved
		- SUD benefit expansion implemented – January 1, 2021
* Coverage of the SUD continuum
* American Society of Addiction Medicine(ASAM) SUD treatment Continuum





* Delivery System
	+ Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) manage services
		- RAE Responsibilities
			* Network development across SUD continuum
			* Administer covered services
			* Utilization management
			* Care Coordination
			* Integrate care services across the spectrum of behavioral and physical health care



* Benefit Policies
	+ Coverage requires SUD primary diagnosis and medical necessity
	+ Medical necessity based on ASAM Criteria
	+ Length of stay is determined by medical necessity
		- No limit to stay as long as medical necessity is demonstrated
	+ Prior authorization is required from treatment services
	+ Prior authorization is not required for withdrawal management (detox) services
	+ No co-pays for Health First Colorado members
* Special Connections
	+ Specialized, gender responsive SUD treatment for individuals who are pregnant or up to one year postpartum
		- Includes childcare, parents can bring children into treatment
	+ Previously, only residential SUD benefit covered with Health First Colorado
	+ Now managed by the RAEs under the benefit expansion
* ASAM and Medical Necessity









* Ongoing Implementation Efforts
	+ SUD Provider Forum every 1st and 3rd Wednesday
		- HCPF, OBH, RAEs, MSOs, SUD providers
		- Discuss policies and provide technical assistance
* Federal Monitoring and Evaluation
	+ Working with 3rd party evaluator to gather data and report on this benefit in accordance with 1115 waiver requirements
* RAE Process Enhancements
* HCPF Policy Revisions
* 1115 SUD Waiver Amendment
	+ The current SUD benefit enabled by the 1115 waiver does not include Medicaid members under 21 (MCHIP).
	+ The Department intends to amend 1115 SUD waiver so that MCHIP may receive inpatient/residential SUD services at facilities that qualify as an IMD.
* Public Forum and Review
	+ A formal notice, a copy of the waiver amendment application, and the location to provide comments regarding the amendment will be made available on the Department’s website:
	+ <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/ensuring-full-continuum-sud-benefits>
	+ The Department will also host two virtual forums to answer questions and receive feedback about the amendment.
	+ The comment period will be open from June 1st until July 1st.
1. **Round Robin**

Chris Newman

1. **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting will be held on July 28th from 6pm-7:30pm**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify the Board Coordinator at 303-866-5965 or mary.hoatam-belnay@state.co.us or the 504/ADA Coordinator hcpf504ada@state.co.us at least one week prior to the meeting to make arrangements.