

## Senior Dental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

1570 Grant St, Hibiscus Conference Room  
January 22, 2020

### 1. Call to Order

Megan Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm

### 2. Roll Call

There were sufficient members for a quorum.

#### A. Members Present

Joan Eskens, Megan Wilson, Lonnie Johnson, Cassie Scott, Dana Turner, Leighanna Konetski, Glen Pfeifer, Michelle Kohler

#### B. Members on the Phone

Karl Kohlgraf, Michael Wiley

#### C. Members Excused

Whitney Janzen-Pankratz

#### D. Staff Present

Chandra Vital, Nancy Dolson, Tracy Gonzales, Vincent Sherry, Taryan Graf

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of October 8, 2020 by **Lonnie Johnson**,  
Seconded by **Joan Eskens**. Motion passed.

### 4. Dental Advisory Committee's Role

- The Committee's role is to advise and make recommendations to the Department
- Worthy accomplishments of the Dental Advisory Committee included
  - Supported the Department in making the Senior Dental Program (SDP) more effective and efficient for Colorado patients and the community

- partners delivering it.
- Reviewed and recommended that SDP rates be increased to match Medicaid rates.

## 5. Review of Current Max Payments

- **Megan Wilson** reminded the committee that the purpose of the funding increase granted by the Joint Budget Committee and Legislature was to reduce the program's waitlist.
- The committee agreed during the October 8, 2020 meeting that a line by line rate adjustment would be counterproductive.
- There was some concern that the SDP will lose providers if the fee schedule is reduced to match Medicaid's fee schedule.
- There was a question if current providers would have the chair space available to treat the waitlisted patients. **Dr. Lonnie Johnson** responded that lack of funding, not chair space, is the issue at University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine.
- The Department reassured the committee that it remains open if the committee wants to look at options such as phasing in changes beginning with one set of procedures at a time.
- The goal of the Department is to reduce the waitlist and look at how the program can be cost efficient without compromising the quality of care or access to care. Bring some of the higher rates down in order to serve more seniors.

**Motion:** **Michael Wiley** made a motion to adjust the current SDP rate payments to the Colorado Dental Association's (CDA) recommendation.

Concerns and questions surrounding proposed motion:

- "How many seniors will the proposed change take off the waitlist?"
- "How will this rate change show the Joint Budget Committee that the Senior Dental Program is gradually moving towards aligning with the Medicaid fee schedule?"
- "What information is needed to evaluate that there isn't an adverse impact on access and quality?"

**Motion:** **Megan Wilson** made a motion to adjust the current SDP rate payments to the CDA's recommendation and monitor the revision over the course of the first year to ensure access to care is not being compromised and the waitlist is being reduced. At the end of the first year, analyze the impact the current model had on the program and discuss a possible phase II revision to bring rates closer to the Medicaid fee schedule.

**Michael Wiley** seconded the motion. Motion passed -8 Ayes, 2 Nays



## Discussion

- Those opposed would prefer the SDP rates align with Medicaid.

## 6. Public Comment

Richard Spencer, DentaQuest CHP+ Project Manager

- Confirmed that DentaQuest has an adequate network of Medicaid providers. They currently have approximately 900 offices that actively treat adult Medicaid patients and 2200 unique providers for the Medicaid network that is broken up between adult and child.

Jennifer Goodrum, Michael's Best Strategies

- Discussed the recommendations Colorado Dental Association (CDA) made regarding Senior Dental rate changes during the September 9, 2019 meeting.
- The Legislature might be interested in hearing about services donated by providers

Colette Kuhfuss, CU School of Dental Medicine

- Voiced concerns regarding how the new Medicare plan changes could affect current patients participating in the SDP.

Phyllis Hirschfeld, Colorado Gerontological Society (CGS)

- Recommended Q1medicare.com as a good resource to obtain information about the various Medicare benefit plans.
- While some plans do have benefits that the seniors must sign up, Medicare Advantage plan recipients will not qualify for the SDP.
- CGS will share information with the Department as they receive it.

## 7. Department Actions

The committee would like to Department to gather the following information throughout the first year of the rate change implementation

- Number of seniors served
- Average cost per senior
- Will focusing on preventive treatment lower the average cost
- Treatment plan completion

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.**

The next scheduled meeting is at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 13, 2020 via Adobe Connect Webinar



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