



Medicaid Rate Review Public Meeting February 5, 2021 Minutes

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
303 E. 17th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203
Webinar, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A recording of this meeting is available at this [link](#).

1. Call to Order, Introductions & Meeting Overview

Tim Dienst, Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee (MPRRAC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

There were sufficient members for a quorum with eleven members participating. All individuals participated remotely, due to ongoing health and safety requirements regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. Members on Webinar/Phone

Tim Dienst, Robert Hernandez, Vennita Jenkins, Kim Kretsch, Christi Mecillas, Bill Munson, Wilson Pace, Valerie Schlecht, Matt VanAuken, Maureen Welch, Murray Willis.

B. Department Staff Participants

Jami Gazerro, Eloiss Hulsbrink, Victoria Martinez, Jeff Laskey, Matt Wellens, Candace Bailey, Lindsay Westlund, Michelle Topkoff, Ryan Dwyer, Naomi Gonzalez, Emily Eelman, Tracy Johnson

2. Meeting Overview

Eloiss Hulsbrink, Rate Review Stakeholder Relations Specialist, reviewed the agenda and meeting logistics.

3. Meeting Minutes

MPRRAC members discussed and voted on meeting minutes from the November 20, 2020 MPRRAC meeting. The MPRRAC voted to approve the meeting minutes.



4. Year One (Cycle Two) Preliminary Data Analyses

The Department provided an overview of Year One (Cycle 2) services, including a summary of the rate comparison actuarial analysis and access to care analyses.

A. Transportation (EMT/NEMT)

The Department presented preliminary rate comparison and access to care data analyses. See slides 17-50 in the [February Presentation](#) for more information.

Stakeholder Feedback

Themes of stakeholder feedback include:

- Rates are reportedly too low to ensure provider retention and appropriate access to high-value services;
- There have been small incremental rate increases for particular EMT services, but not any significant increases in reimbursement; and
- Providers appreciate collaboration with Department on policies and the supplemental payment program since 2016, but indicate there are still gaps in reimbursement for EMT service providers.

Committee Discussion

A committee member noted that EMT rate ratios are among the lowest for service groupings reviewed through the Rate Review Process. Another committee member explained how services are delivered in this service group and how it differs from other service types. The member noted that the rates are not sufficient for the high cost of delivery services and that the Department should consider looking into allowances for treat and release, allowing payments to alternative destinations and higher reimbursement rates. It was also noted that EMT services have a high readiness cost compared to other services due to the component of EMT services that require emergency vehicles to be staffed with trained service delivery providers and stocked with any medical equipment that may be required.

B. Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

The Department presented preliminary rate comparison and access to care data analyses. See slides 51-221 in the [February Presentation](#) for more information.

Stakeholder Feedback

Themes of stakeholder feedback include:

- Concerns regarding hire and retention of staff for provider agencies of personal care services in rural areas, due to reportedly low reimbursement rates;

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- Concerns regarding the discrepancies between rural rates and Denver County rates for provider agencies of personal care services in rural areas;
- Adult day rates are reportedly too low to continue to provide the same level of services to Medicaid members;
- Unit limits for behavioral services are reportedly too low to provide frequency of care preferred by providers and utilizers of these services;
- Concerns regarding current rates and the impact the minimum wage legislation pass-through will have on providers' ability to cover cost of service provision through Medicaid reimbursement alone; and
- Concern that access to services will be impacted by recent rules changes meant to enforce proper billing practices for travel time reimbursement, especially at the same time as the wage pass-through legislation, placing a larger burden on provider agencies to pay adequate employee wages.

Committee Discussion

A committee member shared that they have difficulties identifying proper contact information for HCBS waiver service benefit experts since the reorganization of the Office of Community Living (OCL), which leads to confusion and can be time-consuming to address questions or concerns.

C. Targeted Case Management (TCM)

The Department presented preliminary rate comparison and access to care data analyses. See slides 222-236 in the [February Presentation](#) for more information.

Stakeholder Feedback

No stakeholder feedback was received for TCM services.

Committee Discussion

A committee member shared that conflict-free case management is important for ensuring quality access to case management services for members.¹

5. Next Steps and Announcements

The Department confirmed the date for the next public quarterly meeting, to be held on Friday, June 18, 2021 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

A committee member asked about the committee's request for an additional meeting.

¹ More information on the Department's efforts regarding conflict-free case management is located on the [Conflict-Free Case Management web page](#).



Committee members were mixed on whether an additional ad-hoc meeting was necessary. Committee members were invited to send suggested agenda items to Eloiss Hulsbrink, which would in turn be shared with the MPRRAC Chair, to assist in the scheduling and planning of another ad-hoc meeting, if deemed necessary at the Chair's discretion.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

