



# Medicaid Rate Review Public Meeting

## June 25, 2021 Minutes

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing  
303 E. 17th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203  
Webinar, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Meeting Overview

Eloiss Hulsbrink, Rate Review Stakeholder Relations Specialist, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

#### A. Members on Webinar/Phone

Dave Friedenson, Kim Kretsch, Robert Hernandez, Maureen Welch, Wilson Pace, Gretchen McGinnis, Vennita Jenkins, Tim Dienst.

#### B. Department Staff Participants

Kim Bimestefer, Eloiss Hulsbrink, Victoria Martinez, Jeff Laskey, Marli Firillo, Jami Gazerro.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

MRRAC members discussed and voted on meeting minutes from the February 5, 2021 public meeting. The MRRAC voted to approve the meeting minutes.



### 3. Year One (Cycle Two) Services Working Recommendations

#### A. Transportation (EMT/NEMT)

##### *Working Recommendation*

The analysis results, stakeholder and Department considerations, and the preliminary recommendations were presented. For more information, see pages 1-4 of the [Working Recommendations document](#) and slides 30-34 of the [June Presentation](#).

##### *Committee Discussion*

A committee member questioned the provider count provided in the access to care analysis and disagreed with the conclusion that EMT reimbursement rates are sufficient, due to the inadequate reimbursement structure, which lowers the retention of EMS providers. There was a proposal to implement a treat and release benefit to address nonpayment of transportation that does not result in transport to a hospital. Discussion about the inequalities amongst providers who receive payment took place. Questions and comments about how the SRP is created and implemented with emphasis on private and nonprofit organizations were taken back by the department.

##### *Stakeholder Comment*

The Department did not receive any feedback from stakeholders regarding Transportation during the June public meeting.

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

##### *Working Recommendation*

The analysis results, stakeholder and Department considerations, and the preliminary recommendations were presented. For more information, see pages 4-14 of the [Working Recommendations document](#) and slides 38-46 of the [June Presentation](#).

##### *Committee Discussion*

The committee discussed the passthrough of funding to the workers and the correlation between how much funding providers keep and how much is passed down to the workers and how that affects the services provided to members. Feedback about the current market conditions and capacity issues related to HCBS Waivers was taken back by the Department to further discuss workforce solutioning.

##### *Stakeholder Comment*

Themes of stakeholder feedback included:

- Concerns about the HCBS waiver reimbursement rate comparison methodology.

- Comments regarding whether the analysis conclusions and working recommendations remain in scope of the population they serve.
- Suggestions about verifying wage sustainability due to one-time, term-limited ARPA funding, which should not be considered for funding wages because it could end in a cliff.
- Considerations include the administrative burden of recent requirements adding 20 hours of provider administration work per week by inserting claims data, elimination of travel time reimbursement for some HCBS services, and 2019 legislation that discusses wage passthrough for direct care workforce.

### C. Targeted Case Management (TCM)

#### *Working Recommendation*

The analysis results, stakeholder and Department considerations, and the preliminary recommendations were presented. For more information, see page 15 of the [Working Recommendations document](#) and slides 50-51 of the [June Presentation](#).

#### *Committee Discussion*

The committee expressed support of the shift to remote telehealth case management. Propositions about geographic limitation lifts due to telehealth becoming widely available were taken back by the department.

#### *Stakeholder Comment*

The Department did not receive any feedback from stakeholders regarding Targeted Case Management during the June public meeting.

## 4. Next Steps and Announcements

Updates and upcoming meeting dates were shared with the committee, including discussion of the primary and secondary purposes of the next public meeting. There was also an indication that there will be more allotted time for stakeholder feedback and committee discussion during the next meeting. See slide 55 in the [June Presentation](#) for more information.

## 5. Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

