



Medicaid Rate Review Public Meeting

September 24, 2021 Meeting 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 9:05 a.m.

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

A. Members on Webinar/Phone

Kelli Ore, Maureen Welch, Timothy Dienst, Matt Van Auken, Vennita Jenkins, Dixie Milton, Robert Hernandez, Christi Mecillas, Wilson Pace, Kimberly Kretsch, Jude Wolpert, Bill Munson

B. Department Staff Participants

Eloiss Hulsbrink, Victoria Martinez, Jeff Laskey, Marli Firillo, Amanda Villalobos, Lindsay Westlund.

2. Meeting Minutes

The discussion and vote for the meeting minutes from the June 25, 2021 will take place in the next Medicaid Provider Rate Review public meeting on November 19, 2021.

3. Guiding Principles

- Thoroughly and thoughtfully evaluate services within and across benefits.
- Strive to promote member access to quality care and provider retention.
- Allow data analyses, evidence-based research, and best practices to guide the MPRRAC process.
- Identify methods of collecting meaningful data when there is an absence of evidence or when conflicting evidence or feedback exists.

The Committee also discussed concerns regarding benchmark methodology; more details are included in the section on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) below.

4. Year One (Cycle Two) Services Working Recommendations

A. Transportation - Emergency Medical Transportation/Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (EMT/NEMT)

Department recommendations, including key considerations and feedback, were shared with the committee. See slides 22-27 of the [September Medicaid Provider Rate Review presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

The committee discussed their concerns regarding the EMT/NEMT services recommendations and stated that rates are not sufficient for member access and provider retention. The Department agreed to take back the feedback on the sufficiency of the rate and include it in its considerations.

Stakeholder Comment

Themes of stakeholder feedback included:

- The claims data used for these conclusions are inflated because treat and release is not a covered benefit.
- Department should consider adding a mobile suicide, behavioral health, and substance abuse benefit.



- Emergency Medical Transportation (EMT) services are directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic because patients do not want to be transported in fear of contracting COVID-19.
- Concerns regarding the implementation of the recommendation to increase EMT/NEMT rates and hopes of the rate increasing to 80% of the benchmark.

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

Department recommendations, including key considerations and feedback, were shared with the committee. See slides 32-40 of the [September Medicaid Provider Rate Review presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

The committee discussed correction of the language used in the recommendations to more accurately relay information. The Department agreed to take back the feedback on the wordage in the recommendations.

In addition, the committee noted that staff shortage problems continue due to the current market conditions, as well as concerns regarding increases to minimum wage for certain regions of the state, all of which have a direct effect on member access and caregiver retention for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver services. The committee discussed a need for specific increases to rates directly affecting adult waivers and the Children's Extensive Supports (CES) waiver to ensure member access and provider retention. The Department noted both concerns and will continue to monitor the situation with staff in the Office of Community Living (OCL), HCBS providers, and state legislators.

The Committee also discussed concerns regarding benchmark methodology for HCBS waiver services, since other states vary in the services provided under HCBS waivers, among other data limitations that have been noted previously. This feedback was acknowledged by the Department and has been used to inform discussion on continuous process improvement for the Rate Review Process.

Stakeholder Comment

The Department did not receive any feedback from stakeholders regarding HCBS Waivers during the September Medicaid Provider Rate Review public meeting.

C. Targeted Case Management (TCM)

Department recommendations, including key considerations and feedback, were shared with the committee. See slides 44-45 of the [September Medicaid Provider Rate Review presentation](#) for more information.



Committee Discussion

The committee discussed the per member per month rate redesign. There were concerns regarding increasing caseloads, staff shortage, turnover rate, and noncompetitive wages due to the current market conditions and the effect that has on rates. The Department agreed to take back the feedback on the effects of the current market conditions.

Stakeholder Comment

The Department did not receive any feedback from stakeholders regarding TCM services during the September Medicaid Provider Rate Review public meeting.

5. Next Steps and Announcements

The Department acknowledged committee concerns about the current fiscal climate in Colorado, but noted that this should not impact committee discussion as the purpose of the committee is to help inform the Department's work; the Department will navigate these considerations through existing legislative processes.

The recommendation report will be published November 1, 2021 and analysis is underway for the 2022 Medicaid Provider Rate Review Analysis Report. Committee member Dixie Melton will take over as Committee chair for the next meeting. Committee members were encouraged to send nominations for the next vice chair to Eloiss Hulsbrink prior to November 12, 2021, or bring nominations to the next meeting.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 am

