

**Minutes of the  
Medical Care Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 18, 2011  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
AHCA Conference Room C**

**Participants/Invitees**

***Members Present***

Martha Pierce  
Jennifer Lange  
Amy Guinan  
Robert Payne, DDS  
Richard R. Thacker, D.O.  
Paul Belcher  
Chuck Corley

***Staff Present***

Interim Secretary Liz Dudek  
Phil Williams  
Beth Kidder  
Melanie Brown-Woofter  
Judy Taylor-Fischer  
Maureen Barker  
Carla Sims

***Non-Members Present***

Mary Pat Moore  
Jim Saunders

**Introductions – Welcoming Remarks – General Discussion**

The Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) meeting began with introductions and welcoming remarks by Assistant Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Finance, Phil Williams and Interim Secretary, Liz Dudek.

**Minutes**

Referring to the agenda, Mr. Williams advised that the minutes of the August 31, 2010, MCAC meeting had been sent to committee members for review prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any questions or comments.

With no questions or comments by the committee, a motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes.

## **Newly Proposed Governmental Structure**

Phil Williams referred the committee to the proposed Organization Chart for the Department of Health and Human Services, and advised the committee that this chart was a recommendation made by the Governor's Transition Team responsible for looking at all health related agencies.

Mr. Williams noted that House Bill 115, proposed by Representative Adkins, also offered changes in the structure of health related agencies, but with a slightly different organizational structure than that proposed by the Transition Team.

Committee members were again reminded that this is a work in progress and it may take some time to work out all the details during the 2011 legislative session.

## **Detailed Update on the Medicaid Waiver Renewal**

Melanie Brown-Woofter noted that the waiver renewal was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on June 30, 2010. Since then the Agency has begun a dialogue with CMS on their review of that submission. Melanie advised that CMS has indicated there may be changes with regard to the Low Income Pool (LIP) program, and the Opt Out program, and that there may also be changes in the expansion of the waiver program. She noted however that if approval is not given by CMS by June 30, 2011, the Agency can be given a temporary extension or series of extensions.

## **How to Best Provide Information and Training to Providers, and Encourage Their Participation in Training Sessions**

Judy Taylor-Fischer and Maureen Barker, from the Bureau of Medicaid Services, shared information on the Agency's Provider Alerts and advised that the information is not only available to providers, but is for all interested parties.

They noted that AHCA is making it easier for individuals to keep up to date with changes in Medicaid policy and rules. Individuals can sign up for "Health Care Alerts", in 3 easy steps, via our Web site at: [www.ahca.myflorida.com](http://www.ahca.myflorida.com).

Once signed up, individuals will receive updates on policy, billing, and news for the provider type(s) and geographic areas selected. Individuals control what they wish to receive and are able to easily update their email address and preferences. Signing up is simple:

- 1) Go to: [www.ahca.myflorida.com](http://www.ahca.myflorida.com) to sign up for **Health Care Alerts**
- 2) Click on the \* [Sign Up for Health Care Alerts](#) located at the bottom of the page.
- 3) The Florida Medicaid Health Care Alerts page allows you to subscribe to the automated alert system. To subscribe, complete the online form. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to your mailbox to avoid fraudulent subscription requests. *You must return the confirmation e-mail to complete your subscription.* You can check 00- All Messages/Provider Types or as many individual provider types as you wish. You will receive information via e-mail, as soon as Health Care Alerts are sent by AHCA. You can unsubscribe or add/change email addresses at any time.

Dr. Thacker mentioned that a good way to reach the provider community is through booths at medical conventions or through various medical association journals. He also noted that the individuals in his office that use the alerts the most are the billing staff.

### **Medicaid Handbooks**

Beth Kidder shared that the current format of the provider handbooks is difficult and costly to update. She is therefore proposing a formatting change. She provided participants with three formatting options and asked for their opinion. While a variety of opinions were shared on the various formats, Beth assured everyone that no matter what the design, the handbook would still embody Medicaid policy.

Amy Guinan asked how the recent freeze affected the rules that were moving through the rule making process. Beth Kidder responded that the Governor's Executive Order required a freeze on all rules, and advised that if not adopted within a certain timeframe, all rules currently in the rule making process must start over.

### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Follow-up on the Governmental Structure

Follow-up on Waiver Renewal

Legislative Issues

Updates on Federal Health Reform

Health Information Exchange and Electronic Health Records/Incentive Payments

Overview of fee Schedules

### **Final Comments/Meeting Adjourned**

Phil thanked meeting attendees and speakers for their participation and asked members to send any topics of interest for the next meeting to Carla Sims.

At 3:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.