

1115 WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
January 27, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Kathleen Kelly, Joan Kiatkowski, Maureen Maignet, Kathy McKeon, James Nyberg

Staff Members and Public Attending: Jennifer Reid, Holly Garvey, Mike Cronan, Amanda Clarke, Thomas Marcello, Steven J. Patriarca, Anne Quintero, Cathy Ciano, Denise Achin, Anthony Salvo, Ann Martino, Sen. Tom Izzo, Elena Nicolella

Elena Nicolella, EOHHS, updated the task force on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The state has attracted close to 20,000 new Medicaid enrollees. We continue to address glitches in the system. Parents who lost coverage on January 1 were identified with different mailings and processes. Around 1,000 of the original 6,000 were taken off of the official cut. Some of these individuals were Medicaid eligible. We are working to ensure a continuation of coverage for February 1. EOHHS is also working on a primary care fee increase that will continue into 2015.

Ms. Nicolella also spoke on budget initiatives for the FY 2015 budget. The majority of cuts are to payment rates for managed care entities, nursing homes and hospitals. We are looking at different ways to address higher rate users and psychotropic medications. We also plan on achieving improved pharmacy management and will be looking for rebates whenever possible. There is also an initiative to save \$3 million in all funds from the Katie Beckett program by getting greater financial participation from families.

Question – Why is there not a formula that takes family income into consideration?

Answer – Katie Beckett families are already paying monthly premiums for commercial coverage, we need to establish a way to look at parents incomes and methodology credits for commercial coverage.

There will also be a \$200,000 general revenue investment that expands family planning up to 250% FPL. The FY 2015 budget seeks to save \$42 million in general revenue and \$83 million in overall funds (state and federal).

Question – Sen. Izzo – Is there a plan for the savings to be reinvested?

Answer – We are provided a target and we are mandated to operate a program that is within that number. We were asked to operate at \$83 million under the FY 2014 level. A selection of initiatives was presented to the governor who makes the final decision.

Question – Are there any initiatives in the pipeline that deal with the employment workshops the Department of Justice shut down?

Answer – BHDDH employment first initiative, we will have a representative from BHDDH at the next meeting to discuss this with the task force.

The task force was also given an update on the 1115 waiver renewal process. The state and CMS both agreed to expedite those items the state needed approval on for January 1, 2014. The remaining initiatives will be discussed with CMS over the coming months. The state has the ability to access federal funds but is unable to get those funds without any general revenue. Appropriate funding levels can be determined by using data to provide an overview of our effectiveness.

Rick Jacobsen, Xerox, also spoke on the 1115 waiver renewal. Some of the items that were deferred by CMS until after January 1, 2014 include: modifications to post eligibility treatment of income, telemedicine services, house stabilization and supports and employment.

Question – James Nyberg – What is the status of expedited eligibility?

Answer – This was approved for January 1, 2014, we do need to go through the rules process.

Ann Martino, EOHHS, informed the task force of an EOHHS wide statutory cleanup. The cleanup involves editing Rhode Island general laws so they may comply with new federal regulation in the Affordable Care Act. She also spoke on the continuation of the 1115 waiver task force. Any task force member can send their input to Anthony (anthony.salvo@ohhs.ri.gov).

The February 2014 task force meeting will be held on Monday February 24, 2014.