

1115 WAIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
November 18, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Attending: Sharon Brinkworth, Jacqueline Downy, Rebecca Kislak, Kathy McKeon, Ann Mulready, James Nyberg, Sharon Terzian

Staff Members and Public Attending: Thomas Marcello, Steven J. Patriarca, John J. Mansolillo, Ken Pariseau, Bill Flynn, Diana Beaton, Jenn Bergeron, Holly Garvey, Deborah Garneau, Sen. Tom Izzo, Deb Florio, Ann Martino, Elizabeth Shelov, Anthony Salvo, Alda Rego

Ann Martino, EOHHS, opened the meeting by noting the new Affordable Care Act (ACA) rules. The goal was to create a new rule structure that was easier to follow and understand. All Medicaid populations will be affected by the ACA. In 2015, there will be new rules for the long-term care (LTC) population. Also, the Integrated Care Initiative (ICI) changes many responsibilities regarding the oversight of LTC programs.

The new rules created 13 new chapters. ACA coverage groups now have a new eligibility portal that allows them to access affordable coverage. The rules governing long-term services and supports will be established in 2015. There will be a small population of parents/caretakers with income between 133-175% FPL that will lose coverage under these new rules. Medicaid has been expanded to cover adults between 19-64 years old and 133% FPL who do not have dependent children. Rules have also been established for the new Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) income eligibility process that explains how income is calculated. Individuals will now be able to apply for coverage through a variety of methods including phone, mail, on-line and in person. Navigators and in-person assistors are available for anyone who seeks assistance in applying for coverage. The renewal process has also changed for Medicaid recipients. Recipients will only have to act if something changes regarding their income/household etc. There will also be a moratorium on redeterminations for children and families that are already enrolled in Medicaid as of January 1, 2014.

Question – Senator Izzo – Is there a risk in the MAGI process for people who were eligible under the old guidelines and will be ineligible under MAGI?

Answer – Ann Martino – There is a potential for a small number of people who will be adversely affected. There may be some individuals who used disregards to make them eligible for the program.

Ms. Martino also described the elimination of cost sharing in the RItE Care program as well as adjustments in the RItE Share program. A new subsidy program for parents who fall between 133 – 175% FPL has been established that will pay part of their costs. Children up to age 26 who are transitioning out of foster care will also be able to stay on RItE Care. She also noted that there is no way to get Medicaid if you are undocumented. The only exception is when a woman is pregnant and becomes eligible via her child.

Question – Senator Izzo – Do the new rules address concerns for those individuals who are being discharged from prison?

Answer – Ann Martino – No, they do not fall within our jurisdiction. We are working with the Dept. of Corrections to get these individuals to apply for Medicaid upon discharge.

Question – Ken Pariseau – Can adults who are incarcerated apply for coverage while still in prison?

Answer – Ann Martino – They can apply for SSI while in prison but are not able to access the new eligibility system. Discharge planners are able to provide assistance to prisoners who are set to be released.

Question – Kathy McKeon – Who works with the prisoners?

Answer – Ann Martino – Possible navigators with the Dept. of Corrections (DOC). Contractors who currently work with DOC can also assist soon to be released prisoners. The discharge process handles all concerns for released prisoners. We will update the task force on this topic at the next meeting.

Deb Florio, EOHHS, provided an update on the 1115 waiver renewal process. The process is nearing completion. Within the waiver is a new program that addresses LTC services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease up to 250% FPL. Graduates of the Katie Beckett program will also have access to certain services up until their 21st birthday. Family planning services have also been extended up to 250% FPL. An expedited LTC eligibility process has also been included in the final waiver. This is a less intensive process that allows us to provide 30 days of nursing home/home and community bases services to those who need emergency LTC services pending a financial review. Letters have gone out to the 133-175% FPL parents who could lose coverage describing their options under the new process. Complete instructions will be going out in December.

Question – Ken Pariseau – Will the second letter to parents describe what they have to do on HealthSource RI?

Answer – Deb Florio – Yes, they will be informed that they must be enrolled by December 15th. The contact center will be doing 6,500 outbound calls to facilitate enrollment.

Question – Senator Izzo – How are housing and employment issues being addressed?

Answer – Ann Martino/Deb Florio – CMS notified the state to work on these issues in 2014. We are in the process of trying to acquire an innovation grant for home stability. We are also looking at different types of legislation. We do not have any legislation coming from the department.

The December 2013 task force meeting date/location will be announced via Ontrak and the EOHHS website soon.