HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

HB 2 Chapter 79:412 Laws of 2023 Report of Medicaid Enhancement for Children and Pregnant Women Quarterly Report – Henry D. Lipman, FACHE, Medicaid Director, Division of Medicaid Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Introduction: On January 1, 2024, the commissioner shall begin submitting quarterly reports to the oversight committee on health and human services, the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and human services, and the governor regarding the department's progress in obtaining and implementing the state plan amendment.

The quarterly reports shall include the department's plans for reducing administrative burdens for enrollees and the department's efforts to expand access and participation to voluntary, evidence-based maternal home visiting programs, pursuant to subparagraph (a). Reports submitted under this subparagraph shall also be posted on the department's website.

I. Requirement under HB 2 Chapter 79:412 Laws of 2023

"IV.(a) Pursuant to the state option under the section 5113 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 to expand maternity care under Medicaid and section 1902(e)(16) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)), the commissioner of the department of health and human services ***shall submit, no later than August 15, 2023, a Medicaid state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*** to establish and implement 12 months of continuous coverage for the entire postpartum period. This benefit shall be available to anyone who received medical assistance under the state plan for all pregnancy-related and postpartum medical assistance available under the state plan through the last day of the month in which the 60-day period (beginning on the last day of her pregnancy) ends, remain eligible under the state plan for medical assistance for the period beginning on the first day occurring after the end of such 60-day period and ending on the last day of the month in which the 12- month period (beginning on the last day of her pregnancy) ends."

II. Action and Results for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2024

Pursuant to the state option under the section 5113 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 to expand maternity care under Medicaid and section 1902(e)(16) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)), the commissioner of the department of health and human services ***submitted on August 14, 2023, a Medicaid state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and received approval on November 2, 2023 with an effective date of October 1, 2023*** to establish and implement 12 months of continuous coverage for the entire postpartum period.

III. Implementation Components (COMPLETED)

"The medical assistance provided for a pregnant or postpartum woman under this section shall, consistent with Section 1902(e)(16) include all items and services covered under the state plan that are not less in amount, duration, or scope, or are determined by the Secretary to be substantially equivalent, to the medical assistance available for an individual described in subsection (a)(10)(A)(i); and be provided for the individual while pregnant and during the 12-month period that begins on the last day of the individual's pregnancy and ends on the last day of the month in which such 12-month period ends."

IV. Annual and Cumulative Evaluation

"The purpose of the program shall be, through ensuring continuous coverage for a 12-month postpartum period, ***to increase identification and mitigation of preventable pregnancy related and pregnancy associated morbidity and mortality, including those related to substance use disorder and mental illness.***" In the first six months (October 2023 to March 2024), **137 women** have gained this 12-month postpartum eligibility who otherwise would have only had 60-days of coverage. The Department will add metrics as the data and experience under the waiver develops credibility.

V. Reducing administrative burdens for enrollees and the department's efforts to expand access and participation to voluntary, evidence-based maternal home visiting programs, pursuant to subparagraph (a) (of 79:412).

The Department adopted an updated rule "PART He-W 549 HOME VISITING FOR PRENATAL, CHILD, AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES" on June 29, 2022 in order to comply with Chapter 91, Section 418, Laws of 2021, which removed eligibility and service restrictions for pregnant women and for infants under age one that had been implemented in October 2010. The restrictions set forth in 2010 were included as part of a statewide fiscal response to the difficult nationwide recession. The removal of the eligibility and service restrictions that were added in October 2010 allowed home visiting programs to return to the original status for pregnant women and for infants under age one. In addition, the prior eligibility and service limits for children aged one until turning 21 years of age that existed previous to 2010 were readopted. The rule also expanded eligible provider types and available services and provided for telehealth.