Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, February 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 305-307

Meeting called to order at 10:06 am.

Present: Rep. Pearson, Rep. MacDonald, Rep. Weber, Rep. Edwards, Rep. King, Sen. Gray, Sen. Avard

Absent: Sen. Rosenwald, Rep. Merchant, Rep. Murphy

Minutes from 3 February 2023 approved with one change – added Rep Edwards request for a "Cautionary Note" – clinicals be judicious in asking gun possessions in their homes

Next meeting March 24, 2023 at 10:00 am (see proposed agenda below)

Henry Lipman – FACHE, Director

Reported on "Unwind end of Medicaid". Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FACHE) was enacted by Congress and was recently renewed (January 11, 2023). 101,798 currently protected and are at risk of losing their eligibility when the continuous coverage period ends.

Karen Hebert – Economic Stability Director

Bureau Family Assistance is working to reach out to participants to inform them of the changes coming. Looking to increase capacity, we cannot do it alone. We want to reach the participants before they are in the checkout line or the doctor's office.

Both Henry and Karen reported on staffing conditions:

Karen reported a 22% vacancy and Henry reported 32%. Even stuffing envelops and postage costs will be an issue. Henry said they will have to work hard for 1 year and the consequence may be burnout.

The committee asked to be informed if the department needs help. Don't wait till the last minute. Mark Pearson asked Henry report monthly until all are reassured the work is under control.

Henry Lipman reported on the Adult Dental Benefits

1. Top priority to develop an adequate provider network by April 1, 2023 with a special focus on access to serious dental conditions. Trying financial incentive such as loan repayments up to 100k to close gaps in dentist numbers.
2. Successfully developing a state plan and waiver amendments closely with CMS to define the benefits in line with statute appropriately.
3. Making progress on the following
    a. System development and testing on track.
    b. Communication plans with members are being coordinated and reviewed by DHHS.
    c. NEDD's readiness to operate as a managed care entity in NH being positively assessed.

Medicaid Report by Henry Lipman, Director

Henry distributed literature from October 2022 showing statistical information about Medicaid.

Henry Lipman shared the "Postpartum Coverage Tracker Map"

John Williams shared a proposed agenda for March 24, 2023 at 10:00 am

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- Interim Commissioner and Henry Lipman
- ?
- What would we like to hear?

Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

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