

Division of Health Care Finance
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson, Suite 900 N
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1220



Phone: 785-296-3981
Fax: 785-296-4813
www.kdheks.gov

Lee A. Norman, M.D., Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

KanCare Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2021

Council Members Attending Via Zoom:

Larry Martin, Chairman
Dr. Rebecca Reddy
Susan Concannon
James Bart
Njeri Shomari
Allen Schmidt
Walt Hill
Mark Hinde

Council Members Absent:

Jay Rowh
Dr. Michael Kennedy
Ed Nicholas
Lora Key
Beth Simpson

Other Participants:

Sarah Fertig, Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
Chris Swartz, Director of Operations/COO, Deputy Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Janis DeBoer, Commissioner, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Kerrie Bacon, Ombudsman, KanCare Ombudsman Office
Lisa Baird, Aetna Better Health of Kansas
Lucia Jones Herrera, United Healthcare Community Plan
Stephanie Rasmussen Sunflower State Health Plan
Susan Beamon, Sunflower State Health Plan

Welcome – Larry Martin, Chairman

Chairman, Larry Martin welcomed council members and the three new council members; James Bart, Jay Rowh and Dr. Rebecca Reddy.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Council meeting December 8, 2020, March 11, 2021 and June 24, 2021

Larry Martin asked if the Advisory Council had any changes to the proposed agenda and there were none. Dr. Rebecca Reddy moved the December 8, 2020, March 11, 2021, and June 24, 2021 meeting minutes to be approved as written. Allen Schmidt seconded the motion and the meeting minutes were approved by the Council.

Old Business – KanCare Advisory Council

Define the capable person policy in regard to the care of our disabled kids and adults in need of care per their personal care plans – Ed Nicholas

This business item has been tabled for KDADS to address at the next KanCare Advisory Council meeting. Topic will remain on old business.

New Business – KanCare Advisory Council

What are the average nursing hours that our consumers are receiving compared to the hours that they are given according to their basis score – Ed Nicholas

This business item has been tabled for KDADS to address at the next KanCare Advisory Council meeting. Topic will remain on old business.

Process of MCO contract renewals/new bids; particularly how MCOs are involved around input on the design, expected outcomes, performance measures, models of care and reimbursement to providers of any renewals/bids – Walt Hill

Sarah Fertig stated managed care contracts expire at the end of calendar year 2023 and the new contracts will take effect January 1, 2024. The state will retain the services of a consultant to help draft the RFP and also run the stakeholder engagement process. KDHE is in the final stages of contracting the state procurement process.

Discussion for COVID-19 vaccinations for foster parents and foster children over 12 years of age? Are there policies in place and are there gaps we should be aware of? – Njeri Shomari

Sarah Fertig stated there is not a state requirement for foster parents to be vaccinated for COVID-19. Medicaid will pay for COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible groups, including foster children 12 years of age and older.

Concerns in the Lawrence community regarding Heartland Health Center, the only FQHC in Douglas County and the only place that provided adult dental. Can you give some feedback or input on that? – Njeri Shomari

Sarah Fertig stated each of the three MCOs are required to keep a roster of providers in each of the localities. Sunflower State Health Plan, United Healthcare and Aetna Better Health provided links for the directory information.

<https://findaprovider.sunflowerhealthplan.com/location>

<https://aetnasmwp.sciondental.com/MWP/Landing>

<https://www.uhccommunityplan.com/ks/medicaid/community-plan/lookup-tools>

KDHE Update - Sarah Fertig, Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Chris Swartz, Director of Operations/COO, Deputy Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Sarah Fertig reviewed the KanCare Advisory Council appointment process. The Governor appointed council members previously and moving forward the KDHE Secretary will appoint the members. The current council membership is 13 members with all positions currently filled.

Sarah provided a federal update on the America Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). COVID-19 vaccines for Medicaid beneficiaries will be paid with 100% federal funding effective April 1, 2021. KDHE increased reimbursement rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration to match Medicare. There is a new option for states to extend coverage for pregnant women through 12 months postpartum through a State Plan Amendment. The ARPA also provides for a 10% increase in FMAP funding to supplement existing spending on HCBS/PACE/home health. KDHE and KDADS submitted a joint initial spending plan to CMS on July 9; awaiting CMS review and approval. The Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration expires October 18, 2021; may be extended by HHS Secretary for additional 90-day periods.

The STEPS employment support pilot launched July 1, 2021. The target eligibility groups are: KanCare members aged 16-65 who receive SSI or SSDI and have certain behavioral health primary diagnoses; SSI members enrolled in Medicaid and waitlisted for the I/DD or PD waivers and; KanCare members who are on the I/DD, PD, or BI waiver who are willing to leave their HCBS waiver. The STEPS participants who are on an HCBS waiver or waiver waitlist will be able to return to the waiver/waitlist if they decide to quit the STEPS program.

The protected income level increase to 300% of SSI became effective July 1, 2021.

The next KanCare Oversight Committee meeting will be held September 22-23, 2021.

Sarah review reviewed the KanCare Executive Summary April 22, 2021 document. Dr. Reddy inquired how this data is obtained. Sarah will speak with the Team and contact Dr. Reddy with this information.

KDADS Update – Janis DeBoer, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

Kansas Health Institute (KHI) is assisting KDADS to pull together an Autism Task Team with the focus on how to improve autism services for the State of Kansas. Preparing for the upcoming Kansas Senior Care Task Force Meeting.

A 10% FMAP bump will yield \$80 million. KDADS has worked with some consultants from the Governor's Office to prepare a narrative and spending plan that was submitted to CMS. The list of projects includes workforce, supportive employment and access to care.

KDADS is also working on several federal block grants for the behavioral health side.

KDADS is in the process of reorganizing to bring in additional support for the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) team and Behavioral Supports team. A bump will occur with the Senior Care Act Program as the legislature supported a \$3 mil increase. This will help provide case management services for those who live alone and need assistance to continue living in their home.

KDADS will begin working with an interim committee on the I/DD waitlist to take a deep dive and see what services are needed.

Allen Schmidt provided a brief update on the DSP. The Board of Regents is working with Wichita State to develop an 8 credit curriculum in the Sedgwick County school district with the hope to move into the Community and Technical colleges.

KDADS is waiting for feedback from CMS for the Workforce grants. This money could be used for recruitment or retention bonuses for direct service workers. The projects submitted are for one-time funding.

Update from KanCare Ombudsman – Kerrie Bacon, KanCare Ombudsman Office

Kerrie Bacon provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

Updates on KanCare with Q&A

Aetna Better Health of Kansas – Lisa Baird

Lisa Baird provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

Sunflower State Health Plan – Stephanie Rasmussen

Stephanie Rasmussen and Susan Beaman provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

United Healthcare Community Plan – Lucia Jones Herrera

Lucia Jones Herrera provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

Next Meeting: KanCare Advisory Council and Annual KanCare Public Forum – December 7, 2021, 2:00-4:00 pm via Zoom.