

Division of Health Care Finance
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Lee A. Norman, M.D., Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

**KanCare Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Minutes of June 9, 2020**

Council Members Absent:

Chairman, Larry Martin
Beth Simpson
Susan Concannon
Jerry Henry
Mary Pilcher-Cook
Jaime Price
Allen Schmidt

Council Members Attending Via Zoom:

Edward Nicholas
Lora Key
Walt Hill
Dr. Michael Kennedy
Mark Hinde
Njeri Shomari

Council Member Candidates Attending Via Zoom:

Dr. Rebecca Reddy
James Bart

Council Member Candidates Absent:

Jay Rowh

Other Participants:

Dr. Lee Norman, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
Chris Swartz, Director of Operations/COO, Deputy Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Janis DeBoer, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Amy Penrod, Commissioner, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Kerrie Bacon, Ombudsman, KanCare Ombudsman Office
David Livingston, Aetna Better Health of Kansas
Kevin Sparks, United Healthcare Community Plan
Michael Stephens, Sunflower State Health Plan

Welcome – Chris Swartz

Review and Approval of Minutes from Council meeting December 11, 2019

Chris Swartz asked if the Advisory Council had any changes to the proposed agenda and there were none. Chris Swartz asked if there was any discussion on the previous meeting's minutes. Michael Kennedy moved the March 3, 2019 minutes be approved as written. Edward Nicholas seconded the motion and the 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

Janis DeBoer will set up a meeting between KDADS, Ed Nicholas and Dr. Rebecca Reddy prior to the next KanCare Advisory Meeting (Q3). This meeting was not set up after the March 3, 2020 meeting due to COVID-19 circumstances. Topic will remain on old business until comfortable with the resolution.

Update on staffing issues for those in need of Long-Term Care – Ed Nicholas

Janis DeBoer will set up a meeting between KDADS, Ed Nicholas and Dr. Rebecca Reddy prior to the next KanCare Advisory Meeting (Q3). This meeting was not set up after the March 3, 2020 meeting due to COVID-19 circumstances. Topic will remain on old business until comfortable with the resolution.

Update on progress of the steps being done on the different agencies that can help waiver consumers obtain the hours of care that have been allotted via their personal centered care plans for Nursing and or Personal Care Attendants (Self-directed or agency directed) – Ed Nicholas

Janis DeBoer will set up a meeting between KDADS, Ed Nicholas and Dr. Rebecca Reddy prior to the next KanCare Advisory Meeting (Q3). This meeting was not set up after the March 3, 2020 meeting due to COVID-19 circumstances. Topic will remain on old business until comfortable with the resolution.

Aetna Better Health still not paying anything that requires a CLIA# - Dr. Rebecca Reddy

Lisa Baird stated they have updated their system to accept CLIA at the tax identification level which has resolved these issues. The system is being reviewed to ensure all of Dr. Rebecca Reddy's claims have been rein adjudicated. Topic will remain on old business until issue has been resolved.

HEDIS reports not fair on vaccine refusal/hesitancy (requested by Sue Ann Jantz, Cottonwood Pediatrics) – Chris Swartz

Kevin Sparks stated there has been no update due to pandemic. Topic will remain on old business

Medicaid Expansion status – Larry Martin

Chris Swartz stated that Medicaid Expansion did not pass this year. The topic will be rekindled at the beginning of the legislative session.

New Business – KanCare Advisory Council

Medicaid managed care options in responding to COVID-19 – Dr. Rebecca Reddy

Chris Swartz expressed that CMS is willing to approve a certain number of financial incentives in response to COVID-19. KDADS requested a \$20 temporary per diem increase for nursing facilities and nursing facilities for mental health. The increase could be effective for 120 days and be retroactive to mid-March. Also pursuing permission to issue retainer payments via the Home and Community Based Service waivers for Appendix K.

KDHE Update – Dr. Lee Norman, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Chris Swartz, Director of Operations/COO, Deputy Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Secretary Norman thanked Adam Proffitt for the good work he did as Medicaid Director and has asked Chris Swartz to be the interim Medicaid Director. He also thanked the Advisory Council, advocacy groups, and beneficiaries for their roles during the COVID-19. Dr. John Esslinger has retired from the Medicaid Medical Director role and we are searching to fill this position.

Chris Swartz stated KDHE is in the process of adjusting policies and making operational changes for Medicaid to accommodate COVID-19. CMS is making decisions on how telehealth will be handled during COVID-19. CMS approved KDHE to put a hold on discontinuance of eligibility for members during this pandemic.

KDADS Update – Amy Penrod, Commissioner, Community Services and Programs Commission, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

Amy Penrod stated KDADS is adjusting from working in the office to working from home during this pandemic. During the past three months conversations have occurred with stakeholders, providers, associations and self-advocates trying to determine what is most helpful for individuals as they maintain social distancing while still receiving services. The HCBS Waiver Amendment has been placed on hold but work will begin within the near future.

Update from KanCare Ombudsman – Kerrie Bacon, KanCare Ombudsman Office

Kerrie Bacon provided a brief update. Handout provided.

Updates on KanCare with Q&A

Aetna Better Health of Kansas – David Livingston

David Livingston, Lisa Baird, and Jennifer Prunte provided a brief update on Aetna Better Health of Kansas. Handout provided.

Sunflower State Health Plan – Michael Stephens

Michael Stephens provided a brief update on Sunflower State Health. Handout provided.

United Healthcare Community Plan – Kevin Sparks

Kevin Sparks, Melody Dowling, and Chrissy Krause provided a brief update on United Healthcare.

Chris Swartz thanked everyone for attending the meeting and adjourned.

Next Meeting: KanCare Advisory Council – September 29, 2020, Curtis State Office Building, Room 530, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

