

DELAWARE'S CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL COMPLEXITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 13, 2021

9:00 -11:00

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Roll Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMMA Director and CMCAC Chair, Stephen Groff welcomes everyone. Attendees announce their name and affiliation via the chat box.
Update on DMMA Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Carney has ended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency for the State of Delaware. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governor issued a limited emergency order that will allow certain provisions to stay in place to ensure access to vaccinations. Delaware continues to operate under the Federal Public Health Emergency, which has not ended. The emergency orders for Medicaid remain in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued coverage for individuals who would otherwise lose eligibility. The provisions for copays and premiums remain in place. Two very important changes for the Medicaid Program were made by the Legislature during the markup of the final State Budget in June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An approval for an increase in reimbursement rates for Private Duty Nursing of approximately 15%. Funds through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDDS) to further progress towards full implementation of the McNesby Act. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funds should allow DDDS to increase reimbursement rates of 83% of the Benchmark for direct support professionals working in DDDS administered program, many of which are funded by Medicaid. DMMA reimbursement rates will also be increases for these services; and will be applied retroactively back to July 1, 2021. The American Rescue Plan Act, which provide states with a 10% increase in federal match on Home & Community Base Services (HCBS) to State Medicaid programs from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022, will now be available to state through March 31, 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be allocated towards HCBS delivery systems in the state. States are required to submit an initial spending plan to CMS. DMMA will be holding listening sessions within the next couple of weeks to get input on the plan.
Skilled Home Health Nursing Workgroup Quarterly Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workgroup received updates on the Private Duty Nursing Workforce Capacity Study, as well as the Family Satisfaction Survey. The workgroup continued work with both MCOs to finalize the Welcome and What to Expect letters. The Workgroup reviewed existing care coordination standards for children with medical complexity. Upcoming activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will continue to discuss the findings of the Family Satisfaction Survey. ○ Review the initial findings of the PDN Workforce Capacity Study. ○ Will provide DMMA recommendations on how DMMA can utilize those findings to address gaps for children and their families. ○ Continue working care coordination standards of practice; and will endorse practices that are relevant for families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upcoming SHHN workgroup meetings are on 8/3/21; 9/7/21; and 10/5/21.
<p>DME and Supplies Workgroup Quarterly Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The workgroup’s Initial work started with getting DME and Supply participants, particularly providers, to join the workgroup. ● The workgroup discussed the different steps for the prior authorization process for DME, supplies and pharmaceutical supplies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Of particular concern is the prior authorizations process for DME & Supplies not covered by a member’s primary insurance. ● The workgroup also discussed the following challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inconsistent availability on DME & Supplies at times. ○ Support needs of families such as repair and replacement of equipment. ● The workgroup discussed the need to update the DME and Supply policy language to reflect the CMC population. ● The workgroup discussed the need to add specialty pharmacy providers to the DME and Supply Workgroup. ● Upcoming activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MCO presentation to the workgroup on policies, procedures and forms for prior authorizations; denials; and appeals. ○ Review of DME policy language. ○ Continue to discuss the needs of the families. ● Upcoming DME & Supply Workgroup meeting are on 7/13/21; and 7/27/21.
<p>PDN Workforce Capacity Study Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mary Culnane from the University of Delaware shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To evaluate the capacity of Delaware’s PDN workforce, and those nurses who serve Delaware families of Children with Medical Complexity. ○ The goal for gathering this data is to identify factors related to the PDN workforce shortage. ○ The research team gathered data from four stakeholder groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents of children with medical complexities ▪ Nurses who provide services in the home ▪ Nursing agencies ▪ Nurses who are not employed in the private duty nursing field. ○ At the end of the study the plan is to inform if the current nursing workforce is sufficient to meet the needs; and move forward with practice and policy. ○ The research team was given approval by DHSS Human Subject Research Board (HSRB) to move forward with their study tools.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since the HSRB approval, the research team had their kickoff meeting with the nursing agencies to discuss how the agencies will circulate the surveys to the private duty nurses. ○ The interviews were conducted with family caregivers; private duty nurses and with the agency leads. ○ Surveys for nursing agency leads were circulated by the research team; family caregivers and survey reminders were circulated via USPS; nurses not employed in homecare were circulated by the Delaware Nurses Association. ○ The data collection process was initially set to close at the end of May; but has been extended to June 30th.
<p>Family Satisfaction Survey Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cathy Coddington and Adrienne Dellinger of Vital Research shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The research questions that guided study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to services ▪ Quality and satisfaction ▪ Factors contributing to the variability of families’ experiences ○ The research conducted 11 in-depth qualitative interviews with families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The team used the data from the family interviews to develop the survey. ○ The topics covered on the survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various types of health care services that families were accessing ▪ Families’ social supports ▪ Background demographic information ○ The research team mailed out 4,000 surveys to families in January of 2021. ○ A reminder postcard was mailed out to families in February of 2021. ○ The sample list was based on children who had a CRG rating of 5b and above: ○ There were two options for completing the survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Via a paper survey mailed out in English and Spanish. ▪ Online option in English only. ▪ The research team received 394 survey attempts; 207 attempts qualified. ○ Survey Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 101 online responses were received. ▪ 282 paper versions in English and 11 in Spanish.
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One commenter stated that the increased funding for PDN services should be monitored by DMMA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deputy Director, Lisa Zimmerman responded thanking the commenter for her comment and stating that DMMA will take the comment into consideration. ○ A second commenter followed-up the first comment, stating that it would be interesting to see how generous some PDN agencies will be with the funding from the rate increase with their staff; and its impact on the PDN workforce. ○ Deputy Director, Lisa Zimmerman on behalf of Director Stephen Groff, thanked everyone for attending, and continued commitment to this cause.

Future Meeting Dates:

<p style="text-align: center;">October 12, 2021 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">January 11, 2022 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">April 12, 2022 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM</p>
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📌 All CMCAC meetings are currently held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 PHE.