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NURSING SERVICES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CABINET FOR HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Via Videoconference
August 31, 2022
Commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Shana W. Spencer, RPR, CRR
Court Reporter

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APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dolores (Dee) Polito, Chair

April Hester (not present)

Jennifer Wiseman (not present)

Eva Stone

Lisa Lockhart (not present)

1 MS. BICKERS: Since it's 3:00, I am
2 going to go ahead and start the recording.

3 MS. POLITO: Erin, it's Dee.

4 MS. BICKERS: Hi, Dee. How are you
5 today?

6 MS. POLITO: I'm good. So is it
7 just Eva and I right now?

8 MS. BICKERS: Yes, ma'am. I've got
9 a few people coming in from the waiting room,
10 but it does not look like they're members.
11 So we'll give it a few more minutes. It's
12 just now 3:01.

13 MS. POLITO: All right.

14 MS. BICKERS: And I have just a
15 quick, brief spill before we get started, if
16 you don't mind.

17 MS. POLITO: No problem.

18 MS. BICKERS: It's 3:02. We have a
19 fairly full agenda, so I'll go ahead and do
20 my brief rundown really quick. Eva, welcome.
21 A friendly reminder for everyone on the call
22 that if you are not on the committee, please
23 do not vote on minutes or recommendations.
24 We're having -- we've had some issues in some
25 past meetings recently. So just a friendly

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reminder that only the committee can vote to approve the minutes and recommendations.

Also, if you could please, the first time you speak, identify yourself for the court reporter. So that way, she can capture who is speaking. And then, also, if we could also please speak one at a time and not speak over each other. So that way, the court reporter can make sure to capture everything for the transcript.

Also, Eva, you're new. Welcome. So I do want to let you know, as a committee member, when you vote, you do have to have your camera on. So that way, we stay within the open meetings laws and regulations. I'm not sure if anybody gave you that rundown yet. Excuse me.

So that's all I have. Dee, if you want to go ahead and get started. I don't see that Lisa has logged in yet. This might be her. No. It just said L. Gray. I don't think that's her. So I will go ahead and turn it over to you, Dee, and --

MS. POLITO: Well, we don't have a quorum. I think we need one more member to

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make a quorum, so we can't vote on previous minutes. And, Erin, if you could remind me, I think we haven't voted on April and June meetings; is that correct?

MS. BICKERS: I believe that is correct. If I see anyone else come in, I will let you know if you get a quorum established. You have five, so you should need four for your quorum, over 50 percent.

MS. POLITO: Oh, okay. All right. And so we've had the addition of April Hester and Eva Stone into our Nursing TAC. And I don't see why, Eva, you can't introduce yourself.

For any of the participants that don't know me, my name is Dee Polito. I'm a certified nurse midwife. And after I received my doctorate, I began -- I took a faculty position at Frontier Nursing University where I was a graduate in 1997.

So I'm there full-time, and I am back and forth between Kentucky and Florida quite a bit. I'm in Florida right now, and it's just lovely.

So, Eva, welcome to the group, if you

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could introduce yourself.

MS. STONE: Thanks, Dee. Yeah. I'm Eva Stone. I am a nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, and I got my doctorate in systems leadership from UK. I have worked in school health for about the last 21 years. I've also worked in a clinic setting and then done a lot of immediate care within all of that.

But just -- I'm at Jefferson County Public Schools now which is, by far and away, the largest place I've ever been. The biggest school district I was in prior to here had 3,000 students. Now we've got 96,000 students. So it is an adventure, but I'm really excited for the things that are happening in this state. So I'm glad to be here.

MS. POLITO: So we're going to be voting on our chair and co-chair. We can't do that today because we don't have a quorum. And Lisa, though, will continue to be providing a written report to the KNA board.

And, Eva, do you have any follow-up from the last meeting that you gave us, about a

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presentation on school nurses? Anything that you wanted to bring to this TAC?

MS. STONE: Nothing outside of CMS issuing a memo on August the 18th about expanded school-based health services in Medicaid. So this is very much a nursing issue, but it's also other health service providers.

And so the Department of Education is charged with raising up a Technical Assistance Center, and CMS needs to update their guidelines for states and districts on school-based services. I think one of their items was last updated in 1990-something and the other in 2003, so much-needed updates are coming with that.

And they're calling on states to do a much better job with coordination of care between what's happening with school districts and with other providers. And so I think that we have got some great opportunities coming up in the state to really improve the health of lots of folks, children especially. But this also can go a long way in connecting adults to services as

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well.

So that -- just that update. And I think the other thing I had gotten a question about, any specific data requests that we might have. Justin -- is it Justin? I saw that Lee retired. But -- so some things, I think, that would be beneficial for us as a TAC to look at would be, you know, how many districts are participating in the expanded Medicaid billing and then what do those services look like? What kinds of services are they providing?

And I don't know if it's a question that -- I know Medicaid, you may have this on file. This may be a Department of Education question, or they may be posted somewhere. But who are the folks in the local education agencies that are the Medicaid billing coordinators? Are they -- what kind of service providers are they?

I know, historically, it's been predominantly special education directors. And if that's still the case, you know, I just think it would be beneficial for us to be looking to see who those -- who are

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coordinating services.

And then the only other thing I would add to that is the memo that CMS sent out and then I've been on a subsequent meeting since then with -- the CDC was part of that call. And they were talking about this memo and the changes coming for school-based health services. One of the great big issues that we've had historically for billing in schools is privacy issues.

So HIPAA will allow provider-to-provider exchange of information, but schools are under FERPA. And that limits -- that's a records law that doesn't have any provisions for this type of medical information.

So on a federal level, they're looking at that. CDC is working with the Department of Education because they promulgate the regulations for FERPA to update and to look into what kinds of things that they can do to reduce a lot of those barriers.

I guess the question I would ask, from a nursing perspective, is when we're billing for these services, we have to follow HIPAA-compliant platforms. So where is

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the -- so what exactly -- can we get some clarification on: What is FERPA? What is HIPAA? And, you know, is the billing piece entirely under HIPAA?

And that becomes important when it comes to the Kentucky Health Information Exchange. Because services provided in schools right now, the providers, the medical homes for these students that have medical homes, don't have any knowledge of what's happening in the schools, and could we be doing things to help reduce those barriers to make sure that we're coordinating those services.

I don't know if that impacts you, Dee, in your practice, but it's just been a long-standing issue. And from the other perspective, which we're working -- we're looking into our area providers to see about getting view-only access to their Health Information System because they can share provider to a provider. But we, in the school system, don't have the ability to reciprocate that, which is a problem when it comes to making sure services are being provided.

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That's all I have, which was plenty, I know.

MS. POLITO: No. That's great information, Eva. And I like your data requests, and I would like to have maybe Justin, who replaced Lee, if you could introduce yourself to us. There may be more data requests that we have.

MR. DEARINGER: Yes. Absolutely. My name is Justin Dearing. I'm the assistant director and acting director for the Department -- I'm sorry, for the Division of Health Care Policy.

So as you know, we all had a reorg, and we reorg'd the Department for Medicaid Services. Basically, the old department for Policy and Operations we split into two different divisions and then we added a branch of Child and Maternal Health.

So we -- all of our long-term services like nursing facilities, Hospice, private-duty nursing, nurse aide training program, all of those went to the new Division of Long-Term Services. And then we picked up the Child and Maternal Health

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Branch, which is a new branch.

So it's a new division, and I'm excited to be leading it at this time. And we welcome any policy questions that you may have, any issues that you may have, and any data requests that you may have. Absolutely. So we're happy to help, happy to help you all get whatever answers that -- you know, that you need answered and just submit those to us. And we'll get on those and work on those.

You know, it's been kind of a difficult time with Lee retiring and right in the middle of the transition because everybody is kind of learning their new roles and their new assignments. And then on top of that, we're kind of transitioning also back into work at the same time. So it's just a little bit different.

But, you know, as Erin put up, send any data requests to her, and we'll be more than happy to help and do what we can to assist you all with whatever you all need assistance with.

MS. POLITO: So that's very helpful

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to know, you know, what we do with that, you know, what the chain is for the data request. I think if we, as a group, bring any requests through Erin, just mention during our meetings, I think, so that we're all informed, like Eva just did in requesting the number of districts that are participating and what services they provide.

So, Eva, if you want to put that request into an email, just loop us all in.

MS. STONE: Okay.

MS. POLITO: And since Lee offered providing data to us, there were a couple of things that I wanted to dig into a little bit, and they revolve around APRN practice in Kentucky. So my data request -- and I'm going to put this into an email -- is that we compare what the APRNs in Kentucky -- how many there were, like, five years ago and how many they are -- there were in 2021 and what their certifications are in. How many FNPs do we have? How many CNMs do we have? And just compare, you know, how the number of APRNs has grown in the last five years.

So that's my data request, and I'll also

1 email that to you, Erin, and loop the TAC
2 into it. So that was my big request. And,
3 obviously, since our other members aren't
4 here, they are not having an opportunity to
5 bring those to this meeting today. But
6 hopefully they'll -- our requests, Eva, will
7 stimulate their, you know, asking for
8 specific data maybe regarding their own
9 specialties.

10 So thank you so much for that
11 introduction, Justin. Now, I know where it's
12 going, and we'll keep asking for more
13 information on that.

14 MS. STONE: I do have a question
15 that I forgot to ask. Just, can we have an
16 update on where things are as far as the
17 updated school Technical Assistance Guide for
18 the school-based services?

19 MR. DEARINGER: Yeah. So we're
20 working on that. We've got a task force put
21 together that is -- they've done a lot of
22 really good work. They've reached out to
23 several other states, several local and
24 federal and national agencies that work on
25 school-based trainings. And they've put

1 together some really good information, really
2 good training programs, a lot of good plans
3 moving forward. And they've got a lot of
4 good partners they're working with as well.

5 We've got a presentation that we're
6 setting up with the commissioner to kind of
7 go over it and go through it. And once
8 that's all approved, we can share that and
9 share our plan. It's a lot of good stuff
10 including a large drive and push to spin out
11 promotional material and to be active
12 recruiters in recruiting people to get
13 involved with those programs and learn more
14 about them, be educated and trained in them.

15 So I think it's going to be really good.
16 Y'all are going to be excited about it and
17 like it, I think. But that's kind of where
18 we're at right now, setting up -- you know,
19 getting stuff finalized and set up for that
20 final approval, so we can start sharing that.

21 MS. STONE: So when you say
22 commissioner, you mean the Medicaid
23 commissioner?

24 MR. DEARINGER: Yes, ma'am.

25 MS. STONE: Okay. Thanks.

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MR. DEARINGER: You are very
welcome.

MS. POLITO: I'm just looking at
that chat. Is that Erin that's asking, make
sure to add data requests to new business so
that it is prepared for the next meeting?
Got it.

MS. BICKERS: Yes, ma'am.

MS. POLITO: Got it. I don't have
anything else as far as any new information
to add about maternal health topics or the
follow-up from any movement on my
recommendation several months ago to
recommend to the MAC that we, as APRNs, have
100-percent reimbursement of the physician
fee schedule. So the MAC really took that
and made that recommendation.

So we're just on hold for maybe a
little -- revisiting that request on DMS'
part. So I really don't have anything --
I've not heard anything. I've not had any
further feedback from the MAC or DMS on that
request. So can anyone add to that?

MS. STONE: I don't -- I don't have
anything to add to that but just want to

1 share that the -- the pediatric TAC is having
2 the MCOs present data on immunization
3 compliance rate. And they're asking those --
4 us with a breakdown with race and ethnicity
5 to just be trying to better capture where
6 health disparities are. And so -- and
7 physical exams as well, those preventative
8 health exams, because our numbers have been
9 so low in Kentucky and worse since the
10 pandemic.

11 And so those will be good things, I
12 think, that will be helpful for our group as
13 well, just as we look at -- as you're looking
14 at maternal/child health issues for one
15 thing. And the other thing is just with
16 school-based billing and the services that
17 can be provided in schools to help reduce
18 those disparities for those kids that don't
19 have transportation or have great issues with
20 the social determinants.

21 MS. POLITO: Eva, do you need
22 specific data points to look at?

23 MS. STONE: I don't know. I guess
24 I can think on that and include that with
25 what I -- the email I send out. That's a

1 good thought.

2 MS. POLITO: Sounds good. As far
3 as new business, we were going to --

4 MS. OWENS: Hey, Dee.

5 MS. POLITO: Yeah, yeah.

6 MS. OWENS: Hi. This is Holly with
7 Anthem. I know this is a newer TAC, but any
8 of those formal requests for data we're happy
9 to provide for you guys. If you could just
10 send whatever you need over to our regulatory
11 department. That way, they can head that
12 front and get all the data that you guys
13 need.

14 MS. POLITO: Thank you, Holly.

15 MS. OWENS: Thank you.

16 MS. POLITO: And moving forward, we
17 were going to come up with some meeting times
18 for hopefully till the end of this year. And
19 since this is the end of August, I guess our
20 next meeting would be in October. And I'm
21 going to --

22 MS. BICKERS: We already have a
23 schedule set.

24 MS. POLITO: Okay.

25 MS. BICKERS: Your next meeting is

1 October 13th and then your next meeting after
2 that is December 8th.

3 MS. POLITO: October 13.

4 MS. BICKERS: And I am currently
5 working on the schedule for 2023.

6 MS. POLITO: And then did you say
7 December 8th? Got it.

8 MS. BICKERS: December 8th.

9 MS. POLITO: Okay. I look to be
10 available for those, Eva. How does that look
11 for you?

12 MS. STONE: Yes. I'm good.

13 MS. POLITO: Sounds good. So from
14 there, any input from the MCOs? Is there
15 anything that we can answer or dialogue
16 about?

17 MS. STONE: I might ask a question
18 that the MCOs can answer. So -- well, maybe
19 not. So some of the -- some of the nurses in
20 states across the country work pretty closely
21 with their MCOs. I would just be curious to
22 hear from the MCOs on what kind of things
23 would be helpful as far as partnerships with
24 school nurses or school health staff that
25 could help meet outcome measures for children

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that we should be thinking about as we move things forward.

MS. POLITO: Anyone want to respond to that? Or maybe we can table that until our next meeting.

(No response.)

MS. POLITO: Is there anything more on the agenda, Erin? If you can go down -- page down. Yeah. That is it.

So since we don't have a quorum, there's really nothing more that I have on the agenda today. So I want to apologize for my colleagues, and hopefully we'll have more productivity going forward and better participation. So I appreciate everyone's attention, and I appreciate your participation with us in this Nursing TAC. That's all I have.

MS. OWENS: Thank you.

MS. STONE: Thanks, everyone.

(Meeting concluded at 3:25 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SHANA SPENCER, Certified
Realtime Reporter and Registered Professional
Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing
typewritten pages are a true and accurate transcript
of the proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not employed
by, related to, nor of counsel for any of the parties
herein, nor otherwise interested in the outcome of
this action.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2022.

/s/ Shana W. Spencer

Shana Spencer, RPR, CRR