

Medicaid Managed Care Weekly

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Coordinating Medicaid Managed Care and Behavioral Health

On June 22nd, ODJFS staff convened a meeting with representatives of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities; behavioral health providers and advocates; staff of the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction services, and managed care plans who will potentially be serving the Medicaid ABD (“aged, blind and disabled”) population. The focus of the meeting was to plan the collaboration of services to Medicaid consumers within the ABD and CFC managed care expansions to assure access to medically necessary behavioral health services. The meeting was productive with a good exchange of information and dialogue.

Third MCP Chosen for the Central Ohio Region

On June 28th, ODJFS announced that Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Partnership Plan has been selected as the third managed care plan (MCP) to serve “CFC” Medicaid consumers in the Central Ohio Region. ODJFS had previously selected CareSource and Molina Health Plan via a competitive bid process to serve Central Ohio. However, a third plan was desired in order to enhance consumer choice among managed care plans. Therefore, ODJFS released a second request for applications in March, 2006 to solicit a third MCP for the Central Ohio region.

Two managed care plans submitted applications: Unison Health Plan of Ohio and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Partnership Plan, Inc. Applications were scored on criteria including: experience with the Medicaid program; administrative capacity; systems for clinical management and performance improvement; information technology, and breadth of provider panel.

Care coordination between Medicaid managed care plans and the behavioral health delivery system is essential since utilization of behavioral health services is quite prevalent in the ABD population. Thirty-eight percent of the consumers (about 60,000 individuals) to be enrolled in the ABD managed care expansion utilized a Medicaid behavioral health service in SFY 2005. Just over two-thirds of these individuals (or 70 percent) received their behavioral health care through the community alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services system.

Care coordination is also critical since managed care plans (MCPs) will receive payment in their monthly capitation rate for certain behavioral health services, such as pharmacy and inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. However, certain other behavioral health services are not included in the MCP rate. Those services are typically considered part of the Ohio Medicaid “community mental health” and “community addiction treatment” systems administered by the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and their county behavioral health boards.

ODJFS will continue to promote discussions among key stakeholders in order to clarify the roles and responsibilities of different agencies and their care managers in serving Medicaid consumers enrolled in the ABD expansion.

Q & A Completed for ABD Request for Applications

ODJFS staff have completed answers for 172 submitted questions regarding the request for applications (RFA) for the ABD Medicaid managed care expansion. The complete Q & A document has been posted on the ODJFS internet web site at: http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bmhc/RFA_ABD/ABD_RFA_Questions_and_Answers_Final_062706.pdf.