

Behavioral Health Delivery Workgroup Meeting Minutes March 31, 2023

Participants

Committee Members

Representative James Dunnigan, Adam Cohen, Jed Burton, Patrick Fleming, Nina Ferrell, Brian Monsen, Joel Johnson, Julie Ewing, Russ Elbel, Jennifer Ford, and Lisa Heaton.

Committee Members Absent

Senator Michael Kennedy, Jennifer Strohecker, Dr. Katherine Carlson, Kyle Snow, Tim Whalen, and Jake Shoff.

Division of Integrated Healthcare Staff

Brian Roach, Brent Kelsey, Eric Grant, Jennifer Meyer-Smart, Greg Trollan, Nate Checketts, and Sharon Steigerwalt.

Attendees

Rachel Craig, Mark Greenwood, Nelson Clayton, Elizabeth Klc, Kristeen Jones, Bonnie Alexander, Joseph White, Lynette Tesch, Shawn McMillen, Rachel Townsend, Emma Chacon, Janida Grima, and Andrew Riggle.

Welcome

Brent Kelsey started the meeting welcoming everyone and asked for introductions as it had been awhile since the last meeting. Brent informed the group that going forward we will be holding these meetings quarterly.

Approval of December 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Patrick Fleming motioned to approve the minutes. Russ Elbel seconded the motion. No opposed. Motion passed to approve the minutes.

Operational Issues Update

Greg Trollan gave an update on operational issues. A group of concerned providers have been meeting with the UMIC plans discussing claims and reimbursement issues and

coming up with solutions. These meetings have been well received. There has been individualized work that has occurred to assist with fixes for claims submissions. We have identified more systemic policy related issues as a whole and the Department will take the time to resolve. We have also identified key points of contacts with the plans when providers have issues and the pathways to get any issues resolved.

Emma Chacon agreed that there has been good work being done and should continue. She asked what is the next step for our original topic for this workgroup and where do we go from here. Where are we in moving the TAM population? Eric Grant responded that it might be the most appropriate time to discuss when the contract negotiations start for FY 2025.

Russ Elbel stated things have gone well with the operational discussions, COB, and policy. He mentioned there are some reporting requirements needed for the legislature and when do we report back? Brian Roach stated that this workgroup has to make the recommendation and provide metrics for implementing a delivery model change.

Action Item: Greg Trollan mentioned that he will have a summary write up regarding the work the providers have been engaged in related to claims and reimbursement, any other issues, and with respect to making a recommendation for delivery of services for the TAM population. We will furnish it back to the committee.

Housing Related Support Services (HRSS)

Brian Roach presented on HRSS. The slides presented are embedded below.

[HRSS Presentation](#)

Shawn McMillen thanked and recognized the work of Christine Gianchetta Nguyen and Linda Robinson.

Russ Elbel asked if there have been any discussions about extending this type of work beyond TAM. Brian Roach mentioned there have been limited discussions about this including if there are enough additional funds in the expansion fund or if we would need additional appropriations. Russ asked if there were additional funds, would we need an 1115 amendment. Emma Chacon stated that there would have to be a formal amendment because the criteria would be very specific and it will affect budget neutrality.

Brian Roach recognized a comment in the chat by Lisa Heaton that if women get legal custody of their kids back and get dropped from TAM it instantly ends. Brian mentioned that the other scenario is if a woman becomes pregnant and with both situations they

move to the parent/caretaker relative program. We are communicating with CMS to determine if our current eligibility hierarchy allows us to keep individuals on the program. It would require programming on our side.

Joseph White asked what is the process for enrolling or applying for TAM? Brian stated that we can connect you to our HRSS staff to assist.

Patrick Fleming mentioned that he is hearing it is still very difficult to get folks enrolled in Medicaid and TAM specifically through DWS. Asked if we are hearing anything about this? Brian mentioned that we are not aware of any and that we do have daily/weekly meetings with DWS about enrollment, but we can ask to see if there is a specific delay or a higher denial rate that needs to be looked into. **Action Item:** Bring back any information on TAM enrollment barriers.

Shawn McMillen stated that we should be deliberate to what we think will improve or create cost savings. Regarding Pat's point about the difficulty with enrollment, for some providers TAM isn't their preference for enrollment. They like the more traditional Medicaid plans and see the 12 month limitation as problematic for the members they serve. TAM buys us 12 months of healthcare and then we can work on getting them into some of the other plans they may qualify for. Janida Grima stated that the challenge is around the definition of chronic homelessness and making sure they have the documentation for an individual who has a disability and chronic homelessness status. Oftentimes other Medicaid pathways are a little more straight forward and has less additional work.

Brian recognized a comment in the chat from Joseph White, "Will clients who are no longer on TAM but who are on Adult Expansion Medicaid still qualify?" and the answer is no right now. It is a TAM only benefit.

Emma Chacon mentioned that the DWS process at the beginning used to be different. Specific providers could submit documentation for a TAM application to a DWS email. DWS decided they no longer wanted to do that so TAM applications are now in their regular queue. Given the other applications and everything else going on it may be a good idea to revisit to ensure they are not getting lost. Russ Elbel asked if we can run data to see how often transitions occur from regular Medicaid to TAM and TAM back to a regular Medicaid program. So we could understand the extent of the challenge for people meeting a benefit like this or losing the benefit due to transitions. **Action Item:** Brian Roach mentioned the eligibility process for TAM and this data would be a good topic for the next meeting.

Andrew Riggle would like to have a conversation about how we can make sure TAM individuals and others have access to the HRSS services beyond their eligibility for TAM itself. Brian and Andrew clarified that it would be adding the service to adult expansion or something else that would be a better option.

Patrick Fleming stated that it would be important to get someone from DWS to attend this meeting and future meetings. If we can work with them and have them understand the barriers we are facing.

Q&A

Brian asked if there were other questions.

Representative Dunnigan mentioned he had an appropriation to expand the entire expansion population this session. Unfortunately it was taken out of the housing bill. Rep. Dunnigan mentioned he had a meeting with DWS to try to facilitate a smooth TAM enrollment process, and stated we should follow up with that again and he would be glad to assist in that discussion. Rep. Dunnigan stated he heard that verification of homelessness was the biggest problem but wondered if there were more individuals coming from recent incarcerations that would be eligible for TAM. What other doors other than chronic homelessness? Brian confirmed that chronically homeless is one of the three criteria, but it is not the only one that would qualify for HRSS. Rep. Dunnigan stated that Arizona is telling us that they have approval for more than just first and last month deposits and it is for more than just TAM as they don't have a TAM program. There is a meeting in a few weeks that Jennifer Strohecker and Rep. Dunnigan will be attending to find out more. Brian Roach stated that we need to research their authority. Emma Chacon mentioned to check California as well because they are submitting a request to be able to pay rent for up to six months. It is in the request phase and has not been approved yet.

Nina Ferrell asked if there is any time frame that you can provide on how long it takes to process these applications and provide the funding for housing. **Action Item:** Brian Roach stated he was not sure, previously the biggest delay was getting providers enrolled. We can get that for you. [This was subsequently completed through email with Nina]

Rep. Dunnigan mentioned that his proposal this session was to pull \$3.9M out of the expansion fund and since it would be for the expansion population it would be an appropriate use for these funds. He stated we will need to follow up and see what we can do to get a waiver amendment or what we can do to bring this to the next legislative session to expand broader than the TAM population.

Adjourn

Brian Roach adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2023 from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.