

MAY 12, 2020

**TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES
NORTHERN REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The Trillium Health Resources Northern Regional Advisory Board met by WebEx on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Kimberly Clark, Selina S. Jarvis, Charles H. Jordan, Dr. P. Michael McLain, Donna Powell, Clayton D. Riggs, and Dr. Denauvo Robinson

Members Absent: Ernestine Byrd Bazemore, Freda Kaye Bonner, Dr. Barbara T. Courtney, Kelvin M. Edwards, Sr., J. Ray Freeman, III, Ron Lowe, Larry McLaughlin, William F. Mitchell, Jr., Wallace Nelson, Ronnie Smith, and Emmie Lou Taylor

Staff Present: Bland Baker, and Jacqueline M. Waller, Clerk

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. McLain called the meeting of the Northern Regional Advisory Board to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2020 & MARCH 10, 2020 MINUTES (BOARD ACTION REQUIRED)**

Due to lack of a quorum, the approval of the January 14, 2020 and March 10, 2020 minutes were deferred until the next meeting on July 14, 2020.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

IV. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Dr. McLain called for a motion to adopt the agenda, which was so moved by Com. Jordan and seconded by Dr. Robinson and, unanimously, approved.

V. **BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Com. Jarvis expressed her alarmed concern and disappointment in how few members take this board seriously. Some board members are not attending the board meetings so that the board can have a quorum. We cannot approve the minutes this time just like the last time because we do not have a quorum. This board is important and wants those who do not attend to take the board meetings more seriously. Dr. McLain agreed with Com. Jarvis' comments. Mr. Baker will be reaching out by telephone to the board members who continuously do not attend the board meetings.

VI. GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

Dr. Robinson reported on the following:

- The Governing Board met last month - was able to have a quorum, and had a very informative meeting.
- Since March 23, Trillium has been nearly 100% work from home status.
- DHHS has put the Tailored Plan on hold due to COVID-19 crisis.
- The General Assembly reconvened in April. We are waiting to see what happens regarding the budget for 2021.
- A 5-30% increase has been given to providers to make sure they stay afloat.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Baker gave the following director's report:

- Mobile Crisis Management Presentation. I had originally scheduled a presentation on Mobile Crisis by Natasha Holley with Integrated Family Services for this meeting. In light of the recent COVID -19, I felt that the presentation would be much more effective if it could be done in person. So I have tentatively scheduled the presentation for our July meeting.
- COVID-19 Efforts. As you know, Trillium developed a COVID-19 resource brochure for our partners in the community such as the Local Health Departments, and Emergency Management. We sent an electronic copy of the brochures, our Access to Care brochure and Mobile Crisis Rack cards. We actually were able to get the printers to send hard copies to all of our partners who requested them.

Trillium has worked diligently for the past several weeks to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with actions designed to meet the needs of our members and support our providers. We have implemented rate increases ranging from 5%-30% to a wide variety of providers. The rate increases are intended to help with increased staff costs for things like overtime and hazardous duty pay as well as the increased cost of supplies, cleaning and disinfecting materials, etc.

Trillium has received approval for a variety of services to allow providers to continue to deliver services in new and innovative ways. We received approval to allow providers to implement a very flexible telemedicine proposal that allows virtually every service that does not require hands-on care to be delivered telephonically. CMS has relaxed HIPAA requirements during the pandemic to allow more services to be delivered via Zoom and Skype. We are paying for opioid treatment services through a case rate, which allows providers to maintain the service while letting consumers have take-home dosing of the medication assisted treatment to enhance social distancing. We have also currently lifted prior authorization requirements on all services, except inpatient hospitalization and PRTF, until further notice.

Although rules and regulations are currently relaxed, providers must still ensure that services provided continue to meet medical necessary criteria.

The State received approval from CMS for a variety of flexibilities around the Innovations Waiver. The most significant are: allowing all members to increase hours of service, as needed, through the pandemic; lifting the ceiling on maximum Innovations Waiver expenditures per member per year (normally at \$135,000); lifting the number of hours of service that Relative as Provider may deliver; allowing workers to accompany members to the hospital in the event of hospitalization; and instituting “retainer payments” to maintain the employment of Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) if they are unable to work due to illness or the family/member is not allowing non-family members into the home during the pandemic. Trillium has implemented all of these flexibilities to the fullest.

Although rules and regulations are currently relaxed and prior authorizations have been waived, providers are still required to provide services based on medical necessity and are still subject to monitoring’s and reviews.

- Medicaid Reform. On March 18, DHHS put the Tailored Plan RFA on hold indefinitely due to COVID-19. At this point, Medicaid Reform is no longer a focus of DHHS. We do not know when Medicaid Reform may be re-started. The General Assembly reconvened April 28 and as predicted, they only addressed the COVID-19 related legislation and funding requests. We have heard everything from late May until August before they return to consider a budget for SFY 2021.
- Trillium Preparation for Tailored Plan. Trillium has put most of our Tailored Plan preparation due to COVID-19 on hold. Our draft response to the anticipated RFA was about 80% complete when the pandemic hit, so whenever things are reactivated, we will be in good shape to respond.
- State Budget. The General Assembly reconvened on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. This was an abbreviated session, which focused solely on COVID-19. At some point later in the summer, the General Assembly will reconvene to finish what they did not from last year’s long session, including perhaps a budget for SFY 2021.
- Naloxone Kits. Trillium is currently in the process of ordering some more Naloxone Kits for our 26 counties. We should be able to get them delivered to Trillium in the next 45 days and get them delivered to our counties shortly after that.

VIII. CFAC REPORT

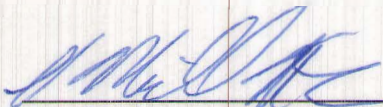
Mr. Lowe was absent, therefore, no CFAC report was given.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline M. Waller, Clerk



Dr. P. Michael McLain, Chair