

Remaining Recommendations For Task Force Consideration

June 8th, Arkansas Legislative Health Care Task Force Hearing

Revised July 11, 2016

A. Certified Agents Role

The task force recommends that DHS work with National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) and clarify the authority of Exchange Certified Producer (certified agents who are compensated from Insurance plan premiums) to represent and speak on behalf of applicants, when given the proper signed authority and consent by applicants, with DHS on any matter involving enrollment and eligibility for the Private Option or the proposed alternative to replace it. It is understood that such Exchange Certified Agents will provide assistance governed by the State and Federal guideline as they have abided by for years. The Certified Agents should be included in the development of the DHS guidelines that will govern their role in the enrollment process for all of the new plans.

B. Behavioral Health Provider Savings Plan

The task force recommends that DHS begin discussions with the Alliance for Health, the Mental Health Council of Arkansas, and the Arkansas Behavioral Health Providers Association regarding their projected savings for SFY 2017-2021 (provided to the task force on February 17, 2016) and determine if any additional rule, plan or policy changes should be made along with or prior to the planning of the revised Rehabilitative Services for Persons with Mental Illness (RSPMI) benefit and related services.

C. Developmental Disability Provider Savings Plan

The task force recommends that DHS begin discussions with the Developmental Disabilities Provider Association regarding projected savings for SFY 2017-2021 (provided to the task force on February 17, 2016) and determine if any additional rule, plan or policy changes should be made along with or prior to the planning for [any new or revised waiver to serve the developmentally disabled](#).

D. Therapy Location of Services State Plan Change

The task force recommends and supports DHS revision of state plan that prohibits Medicaid recipients over 21 years of age from receiving physical, occupational and speech therapy in a non-hospital based setting so as to allow for additional appropriate settings outside hospitals

E. Independent Medicaid Provider Rate Review

The task force recommends a yearly Medicaid provider rate review conducted by an independent actuarial or professional consulting firm, with experience in Medicaid rate methodology that compares Arkansas' Medicaid provider rates to those of other state Medicaid

programs, and Medicare and commercial insurance as well, and to provide an annual report of its findings to DHS and the legislature for review and consideration.

F. Consolidated Waiver

The task force recommends that DHS pursue consolidation of the five (5) current traditional Medicaid program waivers and other state plan amendments so as to provide for more streamlined administration, integration of services across populations, require personal responsibility, and provide the state with maximum flexibility.

G. Medicaid Fairness Act

The task force supports legislation amending certain provisions of the Medicaid Fairness Act to allow prior authorizations to be based on recognized standards of evidence-based practice or professionally recognized standards for health care. Moreover, the task force supports legislation making it clear that DHS is not required to promulgate rules to incorporate recognized standards of evidence-based practice or professionally recognized standards of care that practitioners use in determining medical necessity or rendering medical decisions, diagnoses, or treatment

H. Developmental Disabilities Wait List

The Task Force recommends that DHS submit a plan to the legislature directed towards providing services to those on the Developmental Disability Waiting List through a benefit structure that is capped with tiered levels of payment for some services. The task force also supports the Governor's desire to provide services for those currently waiting for waiver services on the Developmental Disabilities Waiting List.

I. Value-Based Purchasing

The task force recommends that DHS develop and implement a strategy of value-based purchasing for health services, wherever feasible and cost-effective, with the following characteristics: a) Providers should be accountable for some portion of the total cost of care for their patients. b) Accountability for some portion of the total cost of care should include both shared savings and shared risk for average costs above certain thresholds. c) Providers should be receiving higher payments for high quality care and outcomes.

K. Behavioral Health Benefit Redesign

The task force recommends and supports the Arkansas Department of Human Services moving forward transforming the Rehabilitative Services for Persons with Mental Illness (RSPMI) benefit into an evidence based/best practice Adult and Children/Adolescent Mental Health Rehabilitation Option benefit and that access to the revised benefit should be based on identified diagnoses and an independent assessment.

L. Developmental Disabilities

The task force recommends and supports the Arkansas Department of Human Services moving forward with a new waiver or a comprehensive revision of the Developmentally Disabled Services (DDS) Alternative Community Services waiver that is based on independent assessment, three levels of care, an institutional cost limit, tiered payments, and focuses on employment and community choices.

M. State Data Integration/research and decision making.

The State of Arkansas has a vested interest in developing a data system to assist the Governor, General Assembly, and other policymakers to make data-driven decisions that result in more efficient usage of taxpayer funds and better matching of state needs with state priorities. To accomplish this goal, the task force supports legislation exploring the feasibility of establishing such a data system in cooperation with a research-based public university with a proven track record of analytical research and data system development and implementation. The task force further supports legislation allowing for said entity to enter into contractual agreement/s with public universities, both within and outside Arkansas, state agencies, and/or other entities as appropriate

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