

**MHA/ValueOptions® Maryland
Provider Quality Committee Meeting Minutes**

**ValueOptions® Maryland
1099 Winterson Road, Suite 200
Linthicum, MD 21090
Friday, January 10, 2014
10:00 am to 11:30 am**

In attendance: Daryl Plevy, Zereana Jess-Huff, Mike Drummond, Herb Cromwell, Greg Burkhardt, Tammy Fox, Jenny Howes, Marian Bland, Karl Steinkraus, Lori Mannino, Terry Brown, Sharon Jones and Patricia Adegbenle. **Telephonically:** Cynthia Role, Dawn Beckett, Melissa Wilcox, Jamie Miller, Sharon Oliver, Mary Brassard, Carol Jones and Donna Shipp

Topics & Discussion	Follow-Up Actions
<p>Review and approval of Draft Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December minutes were approved. 	
MHA/ValueOptions® Maryland Announcements	
<p>MHA UPDATE - None</p> <p>ValueOptions® Update- None</p>	
Provider Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Obstacle to hospital discharge – Last meeting we said folks without Medicare Plan B are not being provided GZ status and thus can't get OMHC treatment; as a result at least several folks are stuck in the state hospital. Some state hospitals are apparently not doing pre-discharge SSA applications as we thought MHA has instructed them to do many months ago. Community providers also report not being able to get a timely response from CFAP staff and this needs MHA attention. MHA and VO were going to look into solutions, e.g. allowing GZ spans, addressing CFAP access etc. Marian Bland and Lissa Abrams are working on this issue. Under review at MHA. 	

❖ **Lack of affordable housing -- A related issue and a barrier to independent living (e.g. moving on from RRP) is what providers say is a growing shortage of affordable housing. CBH members report an ongoing housing voucher freeze (statewide?). Is it possible for someone to at least publicize whatever housing options exist, ideally by county?** Marian stated that Maryland was awarded \$10.9 million February of last year and they are waiting for the funding to be released. So when that funding becomes available it will be about 150 vouchers and most of the housing will be concentrated in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, Harford County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

❖ **Any changes in the near term on how MHA and VO are managing service access and funds for uninsured (GZ) consumers? What about long term, e.g. for people whose income exceeds Medicaid eligibility but who have not/will not apply for private insurance? Technically, GZ access has been up to 200% of federal poverty.** Daryl stated that it hasn't changed right now but it will change as time goes on because we will not be using state funds to support people who choose not to follow the law, however, we will be taking into consideration that sometimes it is the mental illness itself that prevents someone from applying. So we will be looking at it on a case-by-case basis. It is anticipated that uninsured funding will probably go down as time goes on.

❖ **A provider reported to CBH that if an MA consumer's insurance goes inactive, the OMS form disappears when the provider tries to discharge them. So, the provider cannot bill the discharge and cannot discharge them from the OMS system. Not sure if this an isolated issue or systemic VO IT was looking into this and has asked the provider for examples.** Donna responded that she hasn't had a chance to actually test it but she is thinking that it may be provider education. Anytime a consumer goes inactive in the Value Options system their file is suppressed but you can remove the days date from the file and still have access to the entire range of the consumer's information including their authorizations which would allow you to get to the form with discharge review.

Marian will work on getting a MEMO out regarding this issue.

- ❖ **Will VO soon publish the results of recent survey on provider readiness to work with insurers in the Exchange? What about the survey on need for accreditation help?** Daryl stated that Jarrell has completed the survey on Provider Readiness and it will be sent out. Daryl also responded in regards to accreditation, stating that Kathy Robert-Franklin from ADAA has the responses in and is in the process of tabulating them.
- ❖ **Has DHMH approved any accrediting bodies for deemed status (and ultimately for the future mandate) beyond Joint Commission and CARF, such as ACHC?** Daryl responded that the answer is "no" as there is no provision in current state law for doing that and she believes that the bill language includes a provision for the secretary designating additional accrediting bodies.
- ❖ **Will MHA allow VO to publish a list of top QulP performers? Other QulP updates?** Daryl responded that for now they will not be published because they need to reconcile the QulP data with some other data that has been collected on performance because when compared they were not in alignment. They are working on figuring out why they didn't match and want the information to be correct before being published.

Karl will send the survey results out to the group.

Updates – Herb Cromwell:

- ❖ **Update on 1915i submission to CMS.** Daryl stated that they are removing Care Coordination and Targeted Case Management out of the 1915i and the reason for that is because if we have it in the "i" then when children or adolescents churn out of the 1915i because their income is above 150% of poverty they would lose those services altogether. Not only do we not want that to happen, but it will also affect continuity of care.
- ❖ **Update on CRISP training.** (No Discussion)
- ❖ **Update on interpreter issues -- A) At the last meeting Marian said a new cadre of interpreters for deaf/hard of hearing was being trained. Is the word out on their availability?** Marian stated that the availability of the interpreters would be based upon the type of interpreter you would need. For example, if you were in need of Video Remote interpreting they have it set up so that the response time would be within

Karl will send a update on training dates and arrangements

30 seconds. For on-site interpreting, they ask for at least an hour advanced notice. The program just went live on January 1st so an access date has not been set. **B) As for help in covering cost of foreign language interpreters, after the Dec meeting Medicaid's Rebecca Frechard said there has been no action taken by Medicaid to make this reimbursable. Any change in that since December?** Daryl responded that this will not be happening in the near future as there are other things ahead of it. It will be taken under consideration further down the line.

The next Provider Quality Committee Meeting is scheduled for:
Friday, April 11 2014 10 a.m.
ValueOptions® Maryland
1099 Winterson Road
Linthicum, MD 21010