



Interagency Council for Genetic Services

Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation ☞ Genetic Services
Contractors Texas Department of Health ☞ University of Texas Health Science Centers
Texas Department of Insurance ☞ Consumer and Public Representatives

March 12, 2004

Present:

Margaret Drummond-Borg, TDH, Chair
Hope Northrup, Provider Rep.
Bob Cleveland, Consumer Representative
Lillian Lockhart, UTMB
Janet Shephard, Consumer Representative
Susan Young, TDI
Marjorie Doubleday, TDH

Guest:

Mike Frazier

Absent:

David Rollins, MHMR

Margaret Drummond-Borg introduced Marjorie Doubleday, who will be starting in the Genetics Division on March 15th.

The minutes from the December 5th meeting were reviewed and amended. Minutes were approved as amended.

AGENCY REPORTS

TDH - Margaret Drummond-Borg

The TX Dept of Health is very involved in the consolidation of TDH, MH and TCADA. Support services are being consolidated by HHSC. There is still some talk of IT being placed under HHSC. The consolidation is concerning a lot of people because it is functionalizing the Health Department such that some of the programs are being torn apart. The Birth Defects Registry is being divided into 2 parts: the part that relates to collecting the information and the part that analyzes the data. The 2 parts will go into 2 separate areas. In the Bureau of Children's Health, there is one division called Child Wellness, which has a number of different children's programs. As they all have different functions the whole division will be split into smaller parts and moved to different areas. The consolidation is to be finalized by September 1st. The Legislature said that we will save "X" number of dollars through the consolidation, so when this is finished we have to have a budget with "X" number of dollars less, which may mean we have to cut positions/programs.

CSHCN had to re-do the rules from the last session and they are now final. There is still a growing waiting list for CSHCN. People have to re-certify every year to remain on the list.

There have been concerns with Medicaid since the change to Texas Medicaid Healthcare Partnership as the contractor for payment of services. There are still problems with claims not being paid. This is being looked at presently.

☞☞MHMR – David Rollins

No report.

☞☞TDI – Susan Young

TDI is involved in rewriting Chapter 11 of the TAC, which is the rules that govern HMOs. There is a big workgroup that is researching our statutory authority for some of the language that is in the rules.

☞☞UTMB – Lillian Lockhart

No report.

Genetic Services Funding – Margaret Drummond-Borg

The RFP for Title V Genetic Services was issued on March 10th. It is a competitive RFP and is combined with all Title V services. The funding at the present time has not changed. On September 1st the agencies will be consolidated and we will be known as DSHS (Department of State Health Services) instead of TDH and we do not know how the budgets will be affected.

The question was asked if there was a provision for moneys that are in Title V funds to cover shipping and handling of specimens. Dr. Drummond-Borg stated that if there is a Medicaid code for it, they could.

There was also the question asked that if someone doesn't apply for money, what happens to it? The money is redistributed.

Newborn Screening Rules – Margaret Drummond-Borg

Copies of the proposed rules were handed out to each member. These rules went to the Board and will be published in the Texas Register for 30 days for comment. The change was redefining galactosemia, which will enable TDH to change the way the lab screens for galactosemia. The Lab will not have to increase the cost of the newborn screen.

Other Business:

Hope inquired about the IACGS supporting licensure for genetic counselors in the state of Texas. The IACGS does support licensure and will send a letter of support when requested.

Janet announced a new March of Dimes (MOD) license plate that supports the Birth Defects Registry.

March of Dimes is about to issue its Request for Proposal for funding for 2005 and the requirements have been changed. MOD will have multi-region funding up to \$250,000 per year.

The next meeting date is June 4th.

Meeting adjourned.