



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

June 4, 2004

Present:

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

Guest:

Mike Frazier

Absent:

David Rollins, MHMR
Susan Young, TDI

The minutes from the March 12th meeting were reviewed and amended. Minutes were approved as amended.

AGENCY REPORTS

TDH - Margaret Drummond-Borg

The TX Dept of Health is involved in activities associated with the formation of the new agency, Department of State Health Services (DSHS). There have been a number of proposed org charts but they have not been approved by HHSC.

We are not able to set the budgets until there is an approved org chart. So far genetic services are not being affected in terms of the reorganization. They will continue to keep specialized services as one unit. All HHSC HR and payroll divisions will be outsourced.

We have tentatively allocated money for grants but we are not sure whether or not the money will actually be available. The contracts cannot be loaded into the system until it is determined what the budget is and what the new budget accounts will be.

Letters will be sent out to all contractors once the budgets are finalized.

997 people have been taken off of the CSHCN waiting list and enrolled in the CSHCN Program. Some previous services may be reimbursed.

HHSC has reviewed all of the 800 lines that exist now throughout all of the HHSC agencies and it is felt that there are too many. HHSC is planning to combine many of the 800 lines into a 211 line. The BABY-LOVE line will be eliminated. TDH actually has an 888 line, which is on our letterhead and this number will still be used. The 211 line is operated by a number of not for profit organizations throughout Texas. It provides callers with information about available services in their local area.

Michele Goddard added a little more regarding the 211 line. It will be a no charge number for anyone to call and hopefully the person will be re-directed to a local agency to help them, therefore it will not be a long distance call.

TDH has applied for a March of Dimes grant to educate newborn screening providers about the whole process and outcomes so we can get them to collect the newborn screening tests correctly. Hopefully this will improve the time taken to make a diagnosis and start the baby on treatment.

☞☞MHMR – David Rollins

No report.

☞☞TDI – Susan Young

No report.

☞☞UTMB – Lillian Lockhart

Dr. Lockhart had some concerns about coding for genetic laboratory services. Baylor has asked her to do the coding instead of the Baylor laboratory doing it. Mike Frazier from Baylor said that he would check into the problem.

There was discussion regarding coding of tests – it was determined that the wording is a major factor. The word “screening” should not be used for certain requests. They should be called “tests”.

Genetic Services Funding – Margaret Drummond-Borg

Dr. Drummond-Borg is to conduct a survey of all the people who provide genetic services under Title V plus a few other stakeholders to ask them about how they feel the Title V dollars should be used. The concern is that more money is being spent on prenatal services rather than services for children. The reason this is a concern is because the Maternal and Child Health block grant has a requirement that 30% of the services have to be spent on children (aged 1-20).

The survey will be sent out next week.

Medicaid Genetic Services– Margaret Drummond-Borg

There are concerns about the Medicaid HMOs and provider reimbursement. The HMO does not usually reimburse Medicaid providers unless they have a contract with the HMO and then the reimbursement is determined by the contract. If there is no contract but the services are approved, then the reimbursement is determined by the HMO not Medicaid. Some HMOs do reimburse at Medicaid rates.

Other Business:

Marjorie Doubleday stated that she may have a few revisions done on some of the proposals for the genetic services contracts and that she may be calling or emailing those people to request the revisions.

Janet Shephard stated that one of the advocacy priorities of the March of Dimes will be lobbying for newborn screening expansion.

Dr. Northrup inquired about the end of her term on the council. She has already served two terms & would like to step down.

Dr. Drummond-Borg stated that ballots would be sent out requesting nominations for someone else to serve as a provider rep on the council.

The next meeting date is September 10th.

Meeting adjourned.

6/7/04
Rev. 7/12/04
Rev. 8/4/04
Rev. 8/25/04