


MS. BICKERS: We have been giving all the TACs a friendly reminder: All voting members must have their camera on while voting. And also, too, the court reporter is having a hard time sometimes hearing people if they are not muted when they are not speaking with background noise and people talking over top of each other. So we are just trying to encourage everybody to use the hands-up button if you have questions. And if you're not speaking, to try to stay muted to alleviate background noise. Thank you.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Thank you. I just got a notice that Phil is trying to get into the waiting room, but it, for some reason, won't let him in.

MS. BICKERS: Okay. I just hit admit all, so hopefully it should let him in. We had a couple people hanging out there, so... DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. Welcome everyone. We do have a quorum for our TAC meeting today. But to start off with, I wanted to just acknowledge Mr. Rick Whitehouse, who is the KDA Executive Director, for his
years of service. And on, you know, many of these TAC meetings, he's been quietly on the sidelines, listening or checking in on us and -- but I wanted to thank him for his years of service to dentistry.

And we have an Interim Executive
Director, Dr. Stephen Robertson of Bowling Green, will be the Interim Director, so he was going to try to get on here today also. So we want to welcome Dr. Robertson. And all of the -- in terms of the roll call, all of the TAC members have called in and signed in and so we do have a quorum. And at this time I'd like to have a motion to approve the minutes of the last two meetings of January 13, 2023 and February 10, 2023. So I'd like to entertain a Motion.

DR. GRAY: John Gray, so moved.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Second?
DR. SCHULER: I'll second it.
DR. BOBROWSKI: All right. Thank you. All in favor say aye.
(Members vote affirmatively.)
DR. BOBROWSKI: Any opposed?
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(No response).
DR. BOBROWSKI: All right. Those have been approved.

MS. BICKERS: Carol, I apologize, but your camera was not on. Oh, there you are. Do you mind to second that again and vote? I apologize.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Who -- who's --
DR. SCHULER: I seconded it. Can you not see me?

MS. BICKERS: Carol's video was not showing when everyone said "aye." So I apologize, could you just do that one more time so we can make sure we are in open record, we're good with the laws?

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. All in favor of approving them say aye.
(Members vote affirmatively.)
MS. BICKERS: Thank you, guys.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Thank you. From our last meeting we made the announcements. The election is in Old Business. And the TAC Chair and the Vice-Chair -- currently I'm the chair of the TAC, and Vice-Chair is Dr. Phil Schuler. And we would like to

[^0]enter -- today we will do our vote on those positions. And I'll entertain a motion for those -- election of those positions.

DR. SCHULER: Garth, I will make a motion to nominate you for Chairman of the Dental TAC for the next year.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
DR. GRAY: Second.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Thank you. All in favor say aye.
(Members vote affirmatively.)
DR. BOBROWSKI: Any opposed?
(No response.)
DR. BOBROWSKI: And we need to vote for -I guess I can make the motion for nominating Dr. Phil Schuler for Co-Chair or Vice-Chair of the TAC.

DR. GRAY: Which is it, Garth?
DR. BOBROWSKI: I think it's Vice-Chair. I made the motion. We need a second.

MS. BRAUN: I'll second that.
DR. PETREY: Second to Vice-Chair Phil Schuler.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. Any discussion?
(No response.)

DR. BOBROWSKI: All in favor say aye. (Members vote affirmatively.)

DR. BOBROWSKI: Any opposed?
(No response.)
DR. BOBROWSKI: The next item, we've talked about some reports that the TAC would like to have. And going back through our minutes with some of our TAC members, too, it's just like -- and one of those I know maybe my fault, because I believe I was supposed to send an updated wording to Ms. Kellie and I dropped the ball on that one, so I apologize. I think I was supposed to do that, but I kind of -- then I got to thinking, you know, about 2:00 one morning, I said, well, now Kellie's got those in the minutes, but -- I'm not blaming you Ms. Kellie, but I think I was supposed to get back with a better-worded deal for you there.

But we have some -- some reports that we would like to discuss and look at, and then try to make a final decision on it, either today or by the next meeting so we can get the proper wording. And I know we
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may need some of your help on -- in terms of the State or the MCOs. Sometimes we may be -- we might ask for a format, but you may have an idea on a better format that's easier to compile and easier to read. So we are open to suggestions on the formats of these reports.

One of them was to either use a Geo maps coordinating with claims that -- claims paid that were broken down by the number of providers, either by a region or by county, you know, doing one dollar to 1,000 a quarter, 1,001 to 3,000 per quarter, 3,001 to 5,000 per quarter, 5,001 to 10,000 per quarter, and 10,001 on up in terms of reimbursement through claims paid per quarter. That was one of the ones that we had talked about.

Now, in addition to that, we talked about breaking that down a little further into general practitioners and then by specialty providers of who's actually doing the work out here to serve the citizens of Kentucky. And that would include oral surgeons, pediatric dentists, orthodontists,
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orofacial pain, perio and prosthetics, endo, dental public health, but those are the -some of the ones that we had talked about having to do with just who's doing the work out there, looking for shortage areas, trying to get providers back into the network. Is there any discussion so far from any of the TAC members?

Okay. Is there any --
DR. SCHULER: Let me --
DR. BOBROWSKI: Go ahead.
DR. SCHULER: Let me just say, I mean, you know, the reason that we are asking for this data is to, you know, assess the strength, or lack thereof, of the provider network in the State. And like you say, Garth, look for areas where -- you know, where we have lack of coverage, you know, insufficient coverage. And, I mean, I think it's important for us to know. DR. BOBROWSKI: I agree.

DR. GRAY: Now, Phil, why would it be important for us to know that?

DR. SCHULER: Well, I think when -- you know, as a Technical Advisory Committee,
you know, I mean, I think it's -- I think it's imperative to know the strength of the network of providers, or lack thereof, that we have in the State to take care of -- you know, like Garth said, take care of the citizens. If we have areas where there's gaps, shortages, you know, we know there's areas where patients are waiting an extreme length of time for any appointment, you know. Oral surgery is in particular a real pain point for patients, but really just any -- any appointment for any provider. I know that, you know, the organization I'm part of, you know, we have a lot of offices.

And even in some of our GP offices, I mean, they are putting patients out until -you know, until December, January, let alone oral surgery. I mean, we are basically in Louisville Metro, which has got, you know, a pretty high -- 40 percent of the state lives here. I can't imagine what that coverage is, you know, out in the more rural parts of the state. We talk about it all the time, but we don't have any data to support a
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concern. Maybe there's no concern. You know, maybe we look at this and we go, well, maybe we were wrong. There is, you know, adequate supply of providers and maybe we need more. But, you know, we hear it all the time patients are waiting an extreme length of time that lands them into the emergency departments. It affects their general health. Just -- there's a lot of negative consequences if indeed we have a less than adequate provider network, which we all feel we do have an inadequate network. But we don't have any real data to base that on, other than kind of anecdotal, you know, what we have heard, what a friend told us, what patients tell us about appointment times. So to have that data would be most helpful.

And if, in fact, there are areas of shortage or extreme shortage, you know, we could possibly look at some ways to either attract providers into those areas or talk to existing providers. But first we need to kind of see what the existing network looks like and go from there. We're really just

[^1]making decisions in the dark. Does that answer your question, John?

DR. GRAY: Yes, yes. Thank you very much. That clarifies it a lot.

DR. BOBROWSKI: John, there's one other point that $I$ have in this data. Another area in terms of recruitment would be that this is data that not only that we could look at, but the schools may be able to look at that data and look at these shortage areas in terms of recruiting students, you know, from these areas to hopefully go back.

Last night I was talking with a young lady that just got accepted into the pediatric program there at UK and had a lengthy talk with her. And happy to report that there was several people in her class that -- several were even from Eastern Kentucky and they were, of course, graduating -- last Friday was graduation, or Saturday there, and several were headed back to Eastern Kentucky. She's a local girl from my town here and she's going to be going into pediatrics. So it was

[^2]interesting to hear that several were going back into Eastern Kentucky, which we hope that they will become -- well, KDA members and Medicaid members. So I think just that data there might help in recruitment process from the schools as needed. I think it's just data we can use.

MR. GRAY: Thank you, Garth.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Yes.
Is there any -- on the MCOs, or from the State, Erin, or would there any be -shew, I can't talk my mouth's so dry.

Do you-all have any ideas on maybe the best mechanism to show that data? I know we had talked about Geo maps, but we also talked about a graph or just a chart for different categories of those payment -paid claims categories concern.

MS. BICKERS: If you want to send me that data request -- I was trying to make notes, but I want to make sure I get it worded properly -- I can get with staff and we can work on that. And I'll let them know you'd like the easiest readable format, if that works.

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DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. I'll do that again and I'll put some help on the TAC members to make sure I get reminded to do that. I'll try to get it to you by Monday morning. If I put some urgency to it, I'll get this done.

All right. Another piece of data that we've been doing looking at was to do an overlay of the total number of Medicaid members either per county or per region. Does like how many -- how many Medicaid patients are there, you know, either by county -- I know -- seems like we had that information a few years ago, but I think Covid and everything else has thrown us for a loop on some of our data. DR. PETREY: I think what we're looking to do there, Garth, is to get a total number patients in either regions or counties so we have better understanding of how many patients are -- are in need or are part of the program. And then in addition to that, the reverse that you talked about as far as members. And so we can not only -- I'm sorry, providers, so that we can marry

[^3]those two together to get a better understanding of the needs.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Erin, I'll send you that one also.

MS. BICKERS: Okay. And on that one I actually get weekly reports. And I believe I get one that the members are broken down by the county.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
MS. BICKERS: So I can send that over to you to look at to see if that's the data you're looking for and you'd like to see. DR. BOBROWSKI: All right.

A few years ago you-all did send one out with the -- it didn't have any names on it, but just had the number of Medicaid providers per county or per region. I think at the time it was almost per county. Do you have that information, too, Erin? MS. BICKERS: Did you say providers?

DR. BOBROWSKI: Yes.
MS. BICKERS: No, sir, I don't get weekly reports on that, but I'm sure that's something we can pull.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. Well -- and this

[^4]is -- another thing we are trying to figure out is, well, is this data that you can pull or do we need to go, you know, request this data through the MAC. But if you-all can do these types of things, then we won't even have to bring it up at the MAC meeting.

MS. BICKERS: Yes, sir. Those can just be asked of the TAC, and then the Department can -- like I said, if you don't mind, just send them to me in writing, so I make sure to get the ask completely right. I am taking notes, but $I$ want to make sure I get everything as you guys want to see it. But you can make that just an ask of the TAC, and we are happy to fulfill that to the best of our ability. And if there's something that you want to see and we don't house that data or don't have it, that's something we can just let you know. Or if it's data we need to request from the MCOs, we can do that as well.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. That sounds great. DR. PETREY: That's wonderful, because we were -- sorry, Garth. We were also hoping

[^5]to have that broken down when looking at the members also by MCO, but I know that's -- I don't know if that's something to get through you-all or through the MCOs themselves.

MS. BICKERS: You can always send that to the Department, and then the Department can always make that -- that ask of the MCOs, if that's data we need from them.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. And then we will include with that the State's traditional fee for service program also. So that data comes from the fee for service part and then, also, the -- from the MCOs territory. So that's good there. Got that.

We had an idea, too, on claims -claims -- get a breakdown of claim denials on procedures that require proper authorizations and, you know, looking at that. Would it be any help to us on figuring out why claims are getting denied? Is it one reason? I'm sure it would be that -- well, I had got one in the mail this morning. I got one denied this morning. My office manager forgot to also send a

[^6]narrative. And that -- that's on me, you know, and so -- but is there other reasons that could be red flags as to why these claims are getting denied? Any other TAC members got any ideas on that? DR. PETREY: I'm sorry to keep being the one to keep jumping in here, but I -- I know we discussed the -- looking at reasons for denial as well. And $I$ know in our -two meetings ago when we talked about reports, Dr. Caudill spoke up about something near and dear to my heart, orthodontics.

We are required to get a denial before we even offer a fee to patients that -- for them to be able to pay for their own -their own care. So we submit cases intending denial, knowing they will not be approved, so that obviously is something that would be in there. And if we search for reasons for denial, we could -- one of those can certainly be no criteria met. But my only concern with looking for reasons for denial now is not knowing the GP denial side. Is there a limited number of reasons

[^7]for denial that would make that, the logistics of that feasible? Or are they so arduous and so many that it would -- that just simply it would be too much to kind of whittle down into something that is -- that could be interpreted. I initially felt that we just look at percentages of denials of procedures requiring prior authorization. Clearly, it would be better if we understood why. But I think I would -- I'd like to hear maybe from someone from the MCOs that can tell us whether that is -- would be feasible to have an understanding of the reason for denial.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Would somebody --
MS. ALLEN: This is --
DR. BOBROWSKI: Go ahead, Nicole.
MS. ALLEN: This is Nicole with Avesis. I think you have a great idea for a newsletter article. We can definitely share the top ten denial reasons for prior authorization requests, the top ten reasons for claim denials, and then include a -some information in regards to how to prevent those denials in the future. So if

[^8]there are denials for orthodontics because there wasn't documentation that was submitted, or if there's a denial for eligibility, maybe the eligibility was not verified on the claims side before the claim -- I'm sorry, before the claim was submitted into Avesis. So let us take that back in and we can prepare some news articles for our next newsletters, and then, of course, share that information with the Committee.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Nicole. We will see if -- and if the other MCOs would like to gather that data for us, that would be a good idea, just the top ten authorization denials or even claim denials. Let's go that route even maybe for the last -- I don't know, maybe for the last year, just see what you come up with there on those.

Are there any other reports that we would like to add in to our list there? Any TAC members got any other reports you want to look at?

Hearing none, we will move on with
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that.
Is there any other old business that we need to bring up?

DR. PETREY: Sorry, Garth. I was slow on unmuting. We discussed -- let me run through -- there were five that we had discussed: Update on the total number of members per MCO within the State's traditional -- and within the State's traditional program. We discussed that Geo mapping showing an overlay of the total Medicaid members per county and the total numbers of Medicaid providers per county. We discussed that. A report from the MCOs and the State on what the total dental expenditure is by MCO and the State excluding member incentives. That was one from two meetings ago that was discussed. The breakdown of reimbursement, as you discussed, and then a breakdown of claims on procedures requiring prior authorization.

We have this in a digital format that we can certainly share and send to the appropriate folks on that. So that would

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be -- those would be the five that I have. DR. BOBROWSKI: Sorry, I missed out -- I missed the total dental expenditure. I had too many notes around all of it. Thank you, Dr. Joe. All right. Is there any other --

MS. BICKERS: In the chat, DentaQuest said they can also work on those denials reasons.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. Thank you.
DR. PETREY: I believe we have a raised hand, too, Garth, that you might want to address.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Yeah. I just saw that one from DentaQuest there.

MS. LOCKE: Yeah, that was me raising my hand earlier, but I just put it in the chat that we can provide that report as well. DR. BOBROWSKI: Sometimes I apologize if I -- I saw the chat. It shows up on my device here a little bit better. But if $I$ miss something, just somebody help me out, notify me there, please.

All right. Let's go into New
Business. One of my questions was, is that
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"Why was Kentucky Law 304.17A-235 not followed with the expansion population, new codes and several updated fee schedules?" I've gotten probably more calls about that. Like, with all the changes that have been going on the last few months or so, and just dentists feel like there's just a lack of communication between the State and the MCOs of what's going on.

I've got a few more calls earlier this week on, well, are we good to go with the expanse -- use of the expansion codes or what? But Ms. Erin or somebody from the State has got any answers on that, or -- let me know. Or they say, well, why -- we didn't get any orange envelopes on any of this -- these things. And maybe the orange envelope is -- was not the appropriate mechanism, but a lot of dentists are just wanting to know, well, what's going on? Can we do our work or not or -- and I know there's been some legislative battles going on and...

MS. ADAMS: I am flipping through to see who is on.
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MR. DEARINGER: Hi, this is Justin Dearinger. I was looking to see who was on as well. So I will take a stab at this if no one else is on. I am the acting Director for the Division of Healthcare Policy for the Department for Medicaid Services.

I think your first question is, as you-all know, this has been a process, a process that we've tried to involve many, many groups of stakeholders in, and at the same time try to meet that fee schedule filing time that we use to try to get fee schedules out, you know, somewhere around -in between the January to March months. And so we were trying to meet that timeline, at the same time trying to file administrative regulations for these expansion services, in addition to being able to include as many as stakeholders as possible. And so we've got -- feel like we got a lot of good feedback. We put that into use and then were able to file some administrative regulations.

Those administrative regulations
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were -- had some issues, as you-all know, as far as legislatively. I think a lot of that is politics and things like that. And for a time I thought we were going to have to put a date in and revert back to the 2022 fee schedule for several years, and it would just be that and stay that way. Thank goodness, we were able to make a few changes and refile those administrative regulations so that no time had elapsed in between there and we can keep the fee schedule with some tweaks on it that was instituted from the beginning.

So I think we shared communication with the MCOs. Of course, a lot of that has been up and down because of the amount of changes that have went on in the fee schedule itself and with the regulations. So there's been a lot of changes. There's been a lot of, in my opinion, improvements that have been made. And so we have done those things and tried to communicate as quickly as possible with all the MCOs. And then had them communicate with their providers the changes that were occurring.

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A lot of times those were occurring extremely fast-paced and quickly. But we've told everyone from the entire time -- I'm pretty sure we've told the TAC a couple times -- I would have to look back and see, you know, some of the minutes. But we've kept for sure all the MCOs informed the entire time, that January 1st was a start date for that fee schedule. Everything is paid off of that fee schedule starting on January 1st. So and that -- and that still hasn't changed.

And, you know, I know if you -- right now if you bill for fee for service, those things are not -- are kind of having to still be retro paid. I think most MCOs are currently paying. But everything will be paid based on that new fee schedule all the way back to January 1st. So I'm not sure -maybe you could clarify that part of your question just a little bit more. I was uncertain on it.

The other thing was, I see on there that we had -- that there was a question about the statute. Why wasn't -- that

[^9]statute that was KRS 304.17A-235. So a 90-day notice. That 90-day notice is only in case of a decrease in payment or compensation to providers. So if you look at that statute, you can see that there was no decrease in payment or compensation to any provider. All of the changes to the administrative procedures were just how to bill for the services. There wasn't any providers included in any of the modified insurance products, so that statute doesn't meet anything. We did -- matter of fact, we made several increases in payments on several of the dental codes, as well as to different other providers as well.

So I'm not sure why that statute would have -- again, that statute doesn't apply. So that's kind of $I$ think what $I$ have on that topic that I -- is there any other questions or expansion of that issue that... DR. BOBROWSKI: I got a question, Justin. I know the legislature classified those regulations as deficient, you know. The governor vetoed it. Then the legislature out-voted his veto, but then he came back

[^10]and vetoed that. So the way I understand it -- and I'm not much of a politician, but the way I understand it, since the legislators are out right now, these fees should be good for up until January 1st of 2024. It looks like things should stable -- or get more stable. Am I correct on that?

MR. DEARINGER: Well, so they are paid through the administrative regulations that we filed. And so those administrative regulations, you're right, went through that entire process. However, we refiled new administrative regulations which are currently in effect. They don't really make any significant change for dental providers, make no real change on the fee schedules. So as of right now, those regulations are still in effect and effective.

There could always be legislative action that could, you know, make changes at some point throughout the year, but as of right now the fee schedule has been in place since January 1st. It's still good. And
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what's on the website is still in place until something happens legislatively that nullifies that. And that's a possibility. DR. BOBROWSKI: Yes.

MR. DEARINGER: There's always things that can happen, so...

If that is the case, if at some point we have to do that because of legislative action, then we will notify all providers, MCOs to cease on a certain date, cease providing those services on a certain date. Everything will still be paid from January 1st of that date. But then on that date we will revert back to the 2022 fee schedule, and that fee schedule will remain in place until I think the -- well, until they specify. I think the last time the legislature had specified four years, for four years that 2022 fee schedule would be in place. There would be no additions, no increase in fees. We would go back to -all the increase in fees that we've included in the 2023 fee schedule would revert back to the 2022 fee schedule and would remain that way until whatever specified time.

[^11]So that's -- but, you know, I haven't heard anything as far as anything new that the legislature has planned or is doing. So as of right now, we're still good with our current fee schedule and current administrative regulations. DR. BOBROWSKI: And, Justin, I want to thank you for your hard work on, you know, getting the new codes and some fee increases. And I know that's helped the oral surgeons, or any dentist that does oral surgery, you know, that's been a big plus to, you know, being able to help maintain our providers and our network in there.

But I did have a copy of that 304.17A-235, and just -- and I don't understand all the legal terminology, but it just looked like there was some wiggle room in some of that stuff. And we have a lot of dentists calling to say, well, where is the orange envelope? Where's the -- you know, just wanting information on what to do and how to do it. So, again, we thank you and appreciate your work on that.
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MR. DEARINGER: Absolutely. We appreciate your-all's work. You know, a lot of the changes that we discussed with you-all, with other organizations, with other dentists throughout the State of Kentucky have led to a lot of the different changes that we have made on this expansion of services. And, you know, I think it's important to remember that this administrative regulation, and in particular this 2023 fee schedule, not only expands some services -- not a lot, but a little bit -- but it also gives rate increases -- significant rate increases for a lot of different codes.

You know, if you look back through there and do a compare and contrast, we increased a lot of codes in that fee schedule. And so that's always a positive whenever we can increase rates.

You know, I talked to a provider the other day that was talking about a lot of the different issues that they were going through right now. And, you know, one of our things that we want to do is make sure

[^12]that you-all as providers are successful so we can increase access. You know, our members are -- like, you know, we talked about earlier in this meeting, the wait times. That's something that we are constantly working on. And if you-all ever see a code, and we want to encourage -- this is not part of a regulation, this is not part of a fee schedule upgrade or change, but we encourage any provider that sees a code on our fee schedule and feels like they cannot provide that service because that code does not pay enough to provide that service.

We do -- we get 10 to 20 requests per day from all different provider types asking to research different codes, and so we research those codes. We look at pricing from other states, from Medicare, and we make sure that we are in line with all those different pricing markers, and with inflation in our own state as well. So any time that you-all find a code like that, please feel free to let us know as well. DR. BOBROWSKI: Well, thank you again. And
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I know you have to sometimes, you know, look at what other states are doing. But when you look at them -- just a tongue-and-cheek comment would be to just look -- would you look at other states, look and see when was the last time they had a fee update, just to make sure that you are not looking at fees that were, you know, ten years old.

I'll give you just an example. Just here about a week and a half ago, I saw an ad for a hygienist. They were going to be paid anywhere between 45 and $\$ 60$ an hour. Now, most folks that do Medicaid can't handle that, you know, for an adult cleaning. And, you know, we were getting \$38 less 10 percent. You know, right now we're getting 46.25 for an adult. But just our costs, our supply of staff are just -are just eating us up, and that's where it makes it hard to continue doing some of these services. And the dental offices are doing procedures at a loss, you know, for the Medicaid population and it just -- I know it helps so much that you-all increased

[^13]the oral surgery fees, but there's a couple of things I got -- I had a note down and I talked to the Commissioner the other day. And I sent up a list of just some typos and some questions that I saw. And the other night I noticed that the -- on the website, the fee structure was updated on April the 13th of this year. And then it was just updated again on May the 5th, but I was still seeing quite a few typos in there that I guess -- I don't want to take the time to go over each one of those right now. And I think when I was talking to the Commissioner, she said to just, you know, send those to you and to her and for evaluation. Some of those, you know I just had a question about it. May have not been a typo, but may have just been a question. I know the MCOs -- here's one thing, the MCOs have a -- like on that DO180 code that's a periodontal exam, on our sheets through fee for service there's no descriptor on how and when that code can be used. It is on some of the MCOs' site.

But, you know, I'll just use myself
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for example. I deal with two groups of traumatic brain injury patients and it's all through the fee-for-service part of the program. And a lot of these folks have, you know, severe dental trauma or missing a lot of teeth, or some of the teeth that they do have because of their status have not been able to take well care of their teeth, oral health and together.

So, you know, and I'll tie this in with a thing on -- just like breaking fillings. I noticed -- and I've got that in here as a question coming up. It's like the -- on the MCO part of it and on the fee-for-service website, it's got a -- this is a new change, even I think for 2022, and then again for this year, is that it was added in about if a patient breaks a tooth or filling, you know, if that tooth or filling was placed within six months, well, you know, the dentist, I guess, was to refill it at no charge. Well, that has gone up to 12 months now. And a lot of us, even with our regular patients who are MCO patients, a lot of these adults have had

[^14]fillings on top of fillings on their front teeth and all over. Some of them are severe bruxers, clenchers, grinders, and biting their fingernails, biting, you know, peppermint candies and whatever, and they break that same filling that you just put in seven months ago. And the 12-month rule that was changed from six months, does that become then a noncovered service and the Medicaid patient would have to pay the full fee to fix it? Or would they just have to wait until, you know, the program says it will pay again? Justin, I'll direct that to you, I guess, and...

MR. DEARINGER: So if you'll put together a list of all the different questions that you have and -- about each code and just -and you can include all those typos as well.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
MR. DEARINGER: Send them to me, let me look at them. I'm not -- off the top of my head, I'd have to kind of go look and see --

DR. BOBROWSKI: Right.
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MR. DEARINGER: -- when that change was made, why it was made, and so -- to give you a correct answer on that one.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
MR. DEARINGER: But I can do that with each of those questions that you might have. We can look into that, give you an exact answer of why it was changed, then, you know, what's going on, and we can have an open discussion on --

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
MR. DEARINGER: -- whether we need to change it back.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
MR. DEARINGER: You know, if it's not something -- if it's not something that's set in -- you know, a lot of times we will get things changed on the fee schedule because CMS will send us -- issue requirements saying this has to change. If we get something like that, we are set. You know, you can't we can't -- we can't fix it. Sometimes we change things because a new statute will come out and specify something and we have to make a change
because of that or have limitation change because of that. And then other times we will make a change based on some type of research or something like that and we make a policy change. But those type things, those changes due to research or other directives are always open for you-all to always shoot us an e-mail and say, hey, you know, you-all made this change and we are having trouble with it. Can we talk about it? And we can always -- always look at those. So, yeah, absolutely, send me those and I'll get you a response to each one of those.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
DR. GRAY: Justin, John Gray. I'd like to thank you also for your good work. And I have a couple of suggestions that may be helpful. As you mentioned, you get 15 or 20 responses a day from people. And perhaps if you would direct the dental questions to the Dental Advisory Committee, and perhaps we could get a way to sort those out and put things together in a reasonable method. I even had a hard time

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following all what Garth had to go through today, because I'm not in general dentistry. And perhaps we could formulate a concise thing so that when you make decisions, you don't have to go but one place, and that's the Advisory Committee, which is what we are tasked with doing, and we could give you up-to-date information.

I'm not sure -- what was our
involvement in all these changes, Justin? I'm not -- I'm not sure exactly how all that came about, because I didn't see anything from us.

MR. DEARINGER: Right. So I think we had -- and our communication was pretty late in the process. You know, you-all -you have to remember, any time we make a change such as this, a massive change, it goes through a thousand different layers and levels. So we had information from multiple sources, multiple stakeholders that had input on draft regulation and fee schedule. And then I think we sent that to you-all right before it became effective, I believe, right before we put it out there,

[^15]not before it become -- it became -- we retro-affected it, but right before it kind of went public. And so then we made a lot of changes, though, based on a lot of the recommendations from that collaboration. I don't know the exact date.

DR. GRAY: As a TAC member, I would like to be a resource that you can go to -- not me personally, but the Committee -- that you can go to and say, hey, get this together, you got five days, to the TAC Committee, and let us -- let us help and be helpful in doing what we were tasked to do. And I think you get a lot of information from all the 20 people that are calling you a day, and you get a lot -- but we get that, too. And we're probably in the best position to put that together.

And if we get these other studies on who's providing care, what location, who needs the care, hopefully, we could interact on, I think, more -- more efficient level. And that would be my comment. And I appreciate everything you-all have done. We just want to decrease your workload and

[^16]increase the efficiency. At least that's my perspective.

MR. DEARINGER: Sure. We can -- we can get together and work out a way or we can figure some things out, you know, work together on some issues.

DR. BOBROWSKI: We appreciate that collaboration, Justin. And just, you know, we want to work with you-all and the MCOs to figure this out.

And I know the Commissioner mentioned it a few times at other meetings that Kentucky's ranked 49th in the nation on oral healthcare. And, you know, we've got to put our heads together and move us up that ladder. And I mentioned this to the Commissioner a few weeks ago, it's like what I'm afraid of is once we lose our providers -- and I think it was -- John, I think, said it there a while ago, boy, once you have lost them, man, it's hard to get them back. So we've -- we've got to really work on that aspect of maintaining our provider network. And it's like Dr. Schuler said here a while ago, we got to see where

[^17]we need to -- you know, even as dentists, see what we can do to help, you know, maintain doctors in the network and not having them dropping out.

But going back, one more thing on codes, I know the Commissioner had mentioned to us before, you know, looking at, you know, certain codes and asking for increases on those -- I know the Panorex code, it was upped, you know, for oral surgeons, but then I think it was also changed that it was for all providers, but -- and I got a notice even this morning that I'm getting reimbursed all over the place for Panorexes -- it's a DO330 code -- anywhere from $\$ 35.10$ up to -- and on your updated site it says $\$ 56.69$, but -- and then on another place on the site, it says $\$ 73.70$. So, I mean, it's the same procedure, but I'm getting three or four reimbursements on it. I think we just need to look at stuff like that, but -- so I'd like for us to look at fee increases for -- or look at that situation with the Panorexes, the adult prophies, and the other ones are the codes

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for the composites. These are -- these are things that dentists do day in and day out to prevent having to do root canals, helping to hopefully prevent crowns. If we catch it early enough, we can fill it and not have to do those more expensive procedures on a tooth, like, a, you know, four, five, 600-dollar root canal, you know, plus a core buildup, plus a crown. So sometimes it seems to be cheaper in the long run if we can get people in and do some diet counseling and get them off these soft drinks. But those are the codes I'd like to look at is the Panorex, the adult prophy, and the composite codes for the anterior and posterior regions. I think that's about ten codes there, but...

You know, for example, we'll have a young person come in and we've been getting paid the child rate on a prophy. They turn 21 and the fee automatically goes down to $\$ 46.25$. As an adult, a lot of people tend to get more tartar. They have got all their adult teeth in. And I know the adults, they're categorized at age 14 now and -- but

[^18]there's a pay difference when they turn 21. And I think we really need to get that code up to -- we are having a hard enough time keeping and maintaining and being able to afford the hygienists that are in our territories. But a lot of offices are having staffing problems and it can be from anywhere, from front office staff to the hygienist. And I know the Primary Care TAC at our MAC meetings the last I believe three meetings, they have mentioned even finding dentists, you know, that will see the Medicaid population. So we've just got to be wary of, you know, helping dentists maintain their staff.

Is there any other discussion from TAC members on any of the codes or any of -- any of that line?

DR. SCHULER: Well, Garth, I'd like to, I mean, you know, kind of follow up on what you are -- what you were saying. You know, the compensation for all of our team members, especially hygienists, it just went through the roof the past couple of years. And when you are looking at

[^19]getting, you know, 40, \$50 for, you know, an hour procedure for a hygienist, and the hygienist is paid more than that fee, it doesn't take a, you know, mental heavy weight to figure out you are losing money on every one that you do. So when you talked about fees that we are not able to provide the service due to the economics, I mean, the prophy fees are certainly one. And it doesn't make any sense to pay less for an adult, you know, than you do for a child. You can do a child prophy in, you know, 15, 20 minutes. An adult, some of them take, you know, a full hour. And the hygiene reimbursement rates and compensation is just killing us.

You know, I can -- I can tell you, a lot of our offices with Medicaid -- and a lot of -- a lot of it is due to fees like the prophy fee. You know, we used to have extremely good profitability out of the offices where we saw a very high percentage of Medicaid. And that profitability at this point is just about gone due to mostly the increases in compensation, so -- and that's

[^20]not going away. You know, we are not going to go back to, you know, 2019 or 2015 hygiene compensation probably ever. So to have these fees stuck at a rate that is below what we actually pay the person to do it and -- you know, that doesn't even include all the other overhead of the office. That's just the compensation of the hygienist.

So, I mean, I think Garth is right. That's one that -- you know, it needs to not only be increased to the level of the pediatric prophy, but it needs to be increased even more than that. If you look at what a fee-for-service fee is for that hygiene, that prophylaxis, it's quite a bit higher. So something to look at.

MR. DEARINGER: Absolutely. Make sure to include those codes on your e-mail, Dr. Bobrowski.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay.
DR. DEARINGER: And like I said, we will look into each one of them. And, you know, I want you-all to know that we at the Department understand and hear everything

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you-all are saying, everything that a lot of our providers are saying, and we understand that, and we are doing our best to try to make sure that we assist you-all in any way we can possible to make -- you know, to help alleviate some of those issues.

You know, we have to work within our budgetary limits. We have to work within the statute. We have to make sure that we can justify any and every increase we get, because we are questioned on every single increase that we give. Every time we increase a code, we increase a rate, we are questioned on it. We have to show why we did that, how we did it, where we compare with everybody else and why we decided to increase that one and not something else, so... But we are working on that. And it will be good for you-all to send -- send that, Dr. Bobrowski. We can get started with that and let you-all know what we come back with.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Sounds great. Thank you for all that. Thank you so much.

[^21]Other questions -- we are getting quite a few on, just -- and $I$ saw that Dr. Steve Robertson got on, the new Interim Executive Director. And I know we had a call earlier this morning and we were talking about the KDA offices just getting a lot of phone calls on -- well, like on what we just talked about, but then also on the status of Anthem patients, Passport patients, you know, DentaQuest. And, you know, if someone from the state can -- or if someone from those MCO organizations could comment to help us clarify what's going on.

Dr. Robertson, do you want to just comment, just briefly on the phone calls that the KDA office is getting? I'll let you have the floor a few minutes here. DR. ROBERTSON: Well, there have been a lot of concerns -- first, Hello, Everyone. There's been a lot of concerns expressed about some of the issues with Anthem and DentaQuest. And then now, you know, seeing that Passport's going to come under the same umbrella, I think a lot of people are really concerned.

[^22]I don't know -- I'm sorry that I was late. I just had another meeting wrap up and I don't know what you guys have discussed. But one of the things we talked about earlier was the expansion population timing out and the way that all that was going to be handled. And as of yesterday -I am a practicing dentist. And yesterday in my office we had two DentaQuest patients come in that had an active card. And when we went online it said they were covered. And because we were kind of anticipating an issue when we called to verify, we were told that they were not covered because they were part of the expansion population.

And there was a great synopsis this morning in the Lexington Herald-Leader. The way that the process is supposed to work with the notifications from the State, 60 to 90 days beforehand, and that they will be covered through the end of the month in which their renewal comes up. So if they were due in May, they will be covered to the 31st of this month. But according to DentaQuest yesterday, both of these people

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had termed, because they were part of the expansion population. So I do think that there's still some pains there, some growing pains that we are going to have to figure things out and, you know, there do seem to be a lot of questions about the way some things are being handled, specifically through DentaQuest, unfortunately. We tend to refer most of that to Garth for the TAC, and that's why he brought that up in his reports, but if anyone else has any specific questions?

MS. MEDINA: This is Christy Medina with DentaQuest, and I appreciate you kind of, you know, speaking up and bringing this to our attention. I mean, I think it goes without saying that historically over the course of these TACs we really have not had many issues. In fact, you know, kind of looking back at past agendas and new business conversations, I mean, usually, you know, there's really not much concern. Our messaging to providers has consistently been that we will definitely honor those, you know, 90-day notifications in the event
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that there are any benefit changes. So, you know, as far as it relates to the expansion, you know, those members should not be termed. They're all -- they're all active in the system with the appropriate coverage. And so I -- I don't know about anyone else, because it's kind of the first time that anyone has really mentioned it to -- to our leadership. And so we will most definitely -- if you have, you know, some concrete examples, if you could please, you know, send that over to us, we would be more than happy to, you know, look into it and try to understand if maybe there was a customer service rep or something that gave some misinformation, you know, we can do some targeted education.

But, you know, for the most part, we have been very much engaged in communication with the provider offices and have, you know, explained to them that, you know, most definitely, if they are active -- first of all, we always honor coverage on the Kentucky MMIS. So if they are showing up on

[^23]the Kentucky MMIS, whether it's part of expansion or any other population, that's -you know, that's the source of truth and that is, you know, our Bible, what we go off for any type of claims, payment, or prior auth, and things of that nature.

And then secondly, as it relates to kind of some of the confusion, I think it was across the board, you know, with, you know, the expansion and the vetoes and all of that, that, you know, we will most definitely ensure that not just providers but even members are notified of any benefit changes. We can't just change, you know, benefits like that on a member, so any course of treatment that is currently in process, you know, we are definitely paying those. And we are more than happy to provide any type of reports, you know, to anyone as it relates to, you know, payment on those expanded services, you know, between that -- you know, since the go by dates up until now I do believe those are also going to the State on a regular cadence as -- you know, as everything was rolled
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out, yeah. Please, like I said, you know, if there's anything you can share with us, we'd be more than happy to look into it further.

DR. ROBERTSON: So is your recommendation that the dentists should print the coverage screen? Because how do you -- I mean, like you said, if they are showing that they are -- because I know that they're supposed to verify on a daily basis that people are still in the system. But are you-all recommending that they need that to be printed so that they can provide that with claims?

MS. MEDINA: No, no, no, no. I'm just saying that we always go off of the Kentucky MMIS system as far as, you know, what the source of truth is. And if they were showing eligible on that date, then absolutely, that's the coverage that's being honored. So, you know, if there is a situation where there isn't a member present in the office and it's -- there is a discrepancy, in the event of a discrepancy, yes, I would -- I would take
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that screenshot. I mean, that's not very common, but does it happen, you know, sometimes with timing with all of that, there could be a possibility. Just, you know, as that data flows through all the different platforms and system, you know, between the State health plan partners, DentaQuest, the portals and all of that. So if in the event of discrepancy, I do feel like, yes, that would be best practice, would be to take a -- you know, a screenshot of that MMIS, and we will always honor it, most definitely. But that doesn't have to be like on the regular cadence, you know, day-to-day in --

DR. ROBERTSON: Right.
MS. MEDINA: Yeah.
DR. ROBERTSON: Are there discussions among the MCOs, or is everyone just in line with the published management of the expansion population? Not the codes, the expansion population who technically termed yesterday on May the 11th. So is everyone in line with the 60, 90-days re-enrollment, move to Kynect, whatever? I mean, all the MCOs,
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they are on board with this; correct? MS. O'BRIEN: Yes.

DR. ROBERTSON: The only reason $I$ ask that is that, I'm not saying that the information is not out there, but we feel like there's probably a lot of dentists that really aren't even aware that this is going on. So we are thinking that we are going to send out a ConstantContact on Monday kind of informing everyone, you know, of what's -- how it's going to be handled so that they are aware. And I just wanted to make sure if there weren't any wild cards we didn't know about.

MS. O'BRIEN: And, Dr. Robertson, this is Jean from Anthem Medicaid. There is like a whole presentation and quite a few meetings that the states have been having around redetermination and how it was going to be, I guess, unfolded over the next year. I don't know if you have been connected into any of those -- those meetings or have seen kind of the overview. If you -- if that has not gotten your way, we'd be glad to try to send some of that information. But

[^24]all the MCOs have been tied to DMS around redeterminations and how this is going to be unfolding for --

DR. ROBERTSON: Believe me, this is in no way an accusation. And $I$ do know exactly what you're talking about and I -MS. O'BRIEN: Okay. Okay.

DR. ROBERTSON: We just question -- we just question how much the providers -- not to step on any toes, but how much they know, how much they've read, how much they viewed or attended those meetings. And I guess we are just going to make one attempt to lay it out as plain as we can.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah, I think that would be a great idea. I know -- I know DMS has really tried very hard to do a lot of communication and so has the MCOs. That not necessarily be something that some of the dentists have been, you know, tied to or haven't really seen that. So coming from the KDA would be wonderful --

DR. ROBERTSON: Yeah, I think there's something actually on the KMS website that we are going to try to link to --

[^25]MS. O'BRIEN: Yes, yes.
DR. ROBERTSON: -- so, yes, we don't have any complaints with how they have done it. We just want to make sure that people understand.

MS. O'BRIEN: I agree with you. Yeah, it's a -- that's a big -- it's a huge undertaking for the state and for everyone involved, so -- but any time that you have any issues or concerns with DentaQuest -of course, I kind of want to echo what Christy was saying. We just have not received any complaints. They usually come my way. So I've not seen any complaints from providers or anything through -especially, we never get State complaints. So if there's any issues or concerns, please let us know, so that we can address those on an individual basis. We'd be glad to take care of that.

DR. ROBERTSON: Well, and I think the reason that I had talked to Garth about -we wanted to be sure and bring this up today is that technically this whole issue started yesterday. So I think that, you
know, it hasn't been an issue, because -MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah.

DR. ROBERTSON: -- you know, yesterday was --

MS. O'BRIEN: There's been a change. Yeah, there's been a change.

DR. ROBERTSON: And we wanted to talk about it was just to make sure that everybody understood and kind of knew what was going on, so that if there were calls or if there were questions, you knew what they were calling about.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Ms. Jean, if you and Christy wouldn't mind to send us your contact information or put it in the chat, or something, or get it to me and I'll get it to the other TAC members and the KDA office, and that way when folks call us or the KDA office, we'll have a reference -MS. O'BRIEN: Absolutely.

DR. BOBROWSKI: -- point to get back with you-all.

MS. MS. O'BRIEN: Absolutely.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Appreciate it.
DR. PETREY: Doctor, if I could -- go
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ahead, Stuart.
MR. OWEN: Well, I was going to say, I just put in the chat the website dedicated to public health to the emergency unwinding for everybody, which is a great resource. It's Kynect's website.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah. Thank you, Stuart.
That is a good website.
DR. PETREY: Garth, if I may.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Go ahead.
DR. PETREY: I think now would be a good point. I appreciate hearing from -MS. MEDINA: I can e-mail that website out to you guys as well.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. Go ahead, Dr. Joe. DR. PETREY: Thank you. I appreciate hearing from both Anthem and DentaQuest and their limited amount of complaints. And I -- I think that might be -- that might fall on our shoulders both as a TAC and as practitioners for not bringing to the front the concerns that we do have and we certainly have. I know we have them in my practice. And $I$ get calls constantly about -- predominantly about these plans

[^26]and about issues with them. I think the thing to look at more than anything is how quickly providers are no longer seeing these plans, specifically Anthem. And now as the change for DentaQuest and their taking over for Passport Molina, the lack of providers in those, on a daily basis I have a very difficult time finding dentists for patients who are coming into my office. Now, granted I get to see 100 to 120 patients a day, three-quarters of which are in the Medicaid population. So I get to see these patients daily. And when they are finding out their dentist is no longer taking Anthem, no longer taking Passport because of issues they are having with Anthem or Passport or with DentaQuest themselves, we get -- we get handed the ball and say, well, find me somebody who will see me. So we are creating a significant access to care in those points.

When we have those patients, I struggle to find people. This started with oral surgery. Finding an oral surgeon that would accept Anthem for us, whether they are
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on the rolls or not, whether they would accept Anthem for us -- now my practices go from Somerset to Hazard with Corbin in between, and we could not find anybody outside of the university setting that would accept an Anthem patient for oral surgery. That's a problem. And I apologize for not making it clear that there are problems. And clearly, the oral surgeons have problems and have had problems because they are not accepting those plans.

We already have an access to care issue. We already don't have enough oral surgeons. If the surgeons that we have will not accept a plan, that exacerbates the issue.

Same thing in our practice, and maybe it's our fault for continuing to see these patients. As a -- as a general practice goal and principle, we accept all -- all insurances and treat all of the patients that come into our door. But that's not without issue. And I apologize that I have not made complaints. I have -- was given to me today from my office staff e-mails that

[^27]stretch seven unresponded e-mails to one -to one claim question to a -- to a representative. I have claims that have gone nine months without resolution. That's just -- that's not acceptable, nor do I think is it legal by the -- by the standards of which the MCOs are -- are held to and by what Kentucky Medicaid wants to provide for their patients and providers.

I have unresolved claims on patients that -- that clearly meet the orthodontic criteria, mind you, the orthodontic criteria that we helped to write. So we have a pretty good idea of what is and what isn't the criteria and what would or would not be approved under other MCOs being denied, denied on appeal or never -- the appeal never responded to. It's just unacceptable. And I apologize that I have allowed that to continue to go and not brought those to you all individually. And I think many members on this TAC also have not brought the issues to you all from our own individual practice, because we're inundated with all the other practices that do have issue and are frankly
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dropping the plans. First Anthem, and now we are beginning to see Passport dropped or no longer used because of the issues primarily with -- with the management of the plans and how the response from the -- from the plan itself, when calling and talking to a people for -- even to answer a simple question, getting no response.

I -- I would love to hear any other TAC members to give their experience and whether they have also seen in their regions the dropping of coverage or the -- the dropping of folks with both Anthem -- Anthem and Passport plans.

DR. BOBROWSKI: This is Garth. I know we're having in our area some -- fewer dentists that are taking Anthem and Passport now with those changes.

Had a young lady here yesterday who actually came in bringing -- she was a transport provider for one of our traumatic brain injury patients and she said, well, she can't -- she can't -- she said she had Anthem and she said, I can't get in anywhere. So I don't know all the details.

[^28]It's just the one comment that she made. And in the chat room there just a second ago, a few minutes ago, Ms. Luann Carnall is with the University of Louisville Dental School. And she's the insurance and billing manager and she -- she needs some help with DentaQuest and Passport. So if Ms. Christy or Ms. Jean, if one or both of you-all could reach out to Luann with her billing problems at University of Louisville, we'd appreciate it if you-all would help her out there. MS. O'BRIEN: Now, Dr. Bobrowski, that would have to be DentaQuest and Passport since I'm with Anthem.

And, Dr. Petrey, if you could -- I put my e-mail in the chat. I would love for you to e-mail out what type of issues or concerns that you are having, because I just need the examples, claims that haven't been paid, those types of things. And then Christy and I can go through all those. It's very helpful if we get the information and the examples so that we can definitely, you know, resolve -- and it -- that's usually what $I$ do all day long, as Jeremy

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knows -- he's on the call, too, Jeremy Randall. That's what $I$ do all day, is resolve claims, concerns for providers.

DR. PETREY: Right. And I appreciate that
and I certainly will send those. I think --

MS. O'BRIEN: I appreciate that.
DR. PETREY: -- I think we have -- I think we've been extremely patient in our practice in having seven straight e-mails ignored on a claim that is a challenge.

And I think there are other practices that are simply not accepting your plan anymore, or new patients for your plan, because of these issues.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah. We just need to get some examples. And I appreciate it -- if you send them to me, then we can look at them. And if there's others that are having those issues, we can work on a resolution for that. Thank you for bringing that up today. And I would have to kind of default to Passport and DentaQuest on the $U$ of $L$ Dental School. MS. MEDINA: Yeah, and I just -- I went

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ahead and gone -- and I put our information in the chat so we can definitely connect. I put our e-mail and cell phone numbers on there, so you can go ahead and just touch base on any issues that you guys might be having and those examples, so we can get that all squared away.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Well, let me write down -MS. HUGHES: Sorry. This is Kim Hughes with Passport. I put my information in the chat as well to contact Passport Molina for any issues.

DR. BOBROWSKI: I'm just making a note -MS. BICKERS: This is Erin. I'm with the Department. I will also send you guys a link to the provider complaint form that you can also fill out and submit to the Department for issues that you are having if you're not getting responses from the MCOs. There's also that avenue as well. MS. O'BRIEN: Yeah. Thank you that would be -- that's very helpful, too. Thanks for bringing that up. I'm not sure they have that. I know I'm used to seeing it from the other providers, but I'm not sure I've

[^29]seen it from the dental community. DR. BOBROWSKI: All right. Well -DR. PETREY: We -- we have -DR. BOBROWSKI: -- thank you. Go ahead, Joe.

DR. PETREY: We have not -- I'm just going to say, we have not used that frankly because we want to -- we want to work with the MCOs, and our practice has since the inception of the program. Only -- only going back to the pitfalls of Kentucky Spirit, which we stuck with even, have we had such difficulty as we have had over the last year in dealing with what we're having now. So I'll certainly reach out and appreciate your-all's help in resolving these issues that hopefully will go beyond us and the practitioners that I'm trying to send for oral surgery and for general dental needs will also see changes that will help them to come back on board with the program. Otherwise, I'm fearful that much like I have lost nearly every provider that I've referred to for Anthem, I'm going to do the same for Passport, at least in

[^30]our regions.
DR. BOBROWSKI: All right. Any other questions from TAC members?

DR. GRAY: Garth? John Gray.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Yes.
DR. GRAY: Can you hear me?
DR. BOBROWSKI: Yes, uh-huh (affirmative).
DR. GRAY: I'm one of those people that Joe can't refer to. And if Passport or Anthem or any others want to call our Mt. Sterling office and talk -- we would be glad to explain why we -- why it just won't work. So we have not complained to them about it because we are not seeing the patients. DR. BOBROWSKI: Okay. So if you-all would reach out to Dr. Gray's Mt. Sterling office, they can continue the conversation. I think at least -- at least we're talking and trying to work out some things here. MS. MEDINA: Absolutely. We will definitely reach out and, you know, kind of get some insight into some of those challenges so that we can better partner in the future.

DR. BOBROWSKI: I had a little grandpa/

[^31]grandson conversation the other day with my eight-year-old grandson and just stressing to him to learn how to communicate. And he knows what that word means. He's been around me along enough that -- you know, I said you just got to learn, you know, just don't be afraid to ask. Sometimes -- and I remember even in college one of our instructors said, you know, if you've got a question, raise your hand, because he said, in this class, there's probably ten other people that have got the same question, but they're too scared to raise their hands. So just -- you know, if we have got questions of each other, let's communicate questions or concerns.

And then I'm going on down the agenda, that we had some United Healthcare criteria for prior authorizations. Dr. Adam Rich, any comments, or is that all worked out or...

DR. RICH: Hey, Dr. Bobrowski, this is Adam Rich with United Healthcare. I did speak with Dr. Petrey, but I think the question was around how continuation of care,

[^32]transition of care from one MCO to another would -- would happen, especially as it related to ortho. And because with -- if members are transferring plans or whatever may be happening and -- and to speak to it from our perspective, what -- you know, the only thing we would be looking for from -specifically for an ortho plan would be, when you submit claim, the EOB and the letter of medical necessity, so we can figure out and determine what their remaining balance on the case would be and -- and get that to the provider. And then everything else would be pretty much the same as they were doing before.

So if there's any other questions around that $I$ can certainly address them, but that was my understanding of what that item entailed. So, yeah, please feel free to elaborate. Or if $I$ can elaborate, just let me know.

DR. PETREY: Yeah, that -- yeah, that does clarify that in our -- we had a great conversation that helped to understand how that would follow through. And I also -- I

[^33]appreciate the back and forth with that, Dr. Rich, and we appreciate your-all's efforts and -- and also how you are handling the fee structure and adjusting how that -- bringing that closer online to what we are used to and what the State has outlined. And, frankly, appreciate your fee for orthodontics being -- while still -- while still a challenge to -- for us to make margin, still being at a higher rate than what we're receiving from other MCOs, and appreciate the work that you are doing to help with the -- to gain providers from that respect, because I think that will help.

DR. RICH: Thank you. And say this to you and anyone else, anytime I can -- anytime you have any questions or need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out. That's what I'm here for, so thank you.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Thank you, Dr. Rich, Dr. Joe.

I just want to bring up -- I know while ago Justin had made a comment that, you know, a lot of times they have to look

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and compare the states around us to, you know, see what other states are doing and developing strategies, policies, fees, but I just put this in here -- I just got this here the first part of the month. This is from House Bill 1001-State Budget Bill, and this is from Indiana. But the -- the bill was passed which funds Medicaid's request for 12.9 million-dollars state share to be used for a dental investment -- I like that word -- with a total dental expenditure of 47.3 million for the next biannual budget. Indiana Medicaid intends to review reimbursement rates every four years, so this will eliminate long lapses of having fee increases.

House Bill 1001 also included funds for Indiana Medicaid to provide inflation rate increases for the years when rates are not reviewed. So, I mean, in terms of policy, I would recommend to the State to add that language into your -- what you do. And I know you have to base things off of what the legislature funding allows you to do, but it's kind of one of those things in

[^34]the future. I know in January we'll start the long session for the legislature and that's one of those things that, Folks, we got to move Kentucky oral health out of 49th. That's awful. We got to do what we can to get providers taking care of people.

And I've used this term before, we got to build some smiles. And each one of us on this TAC have gotten various aspects of the dental arena covered, from oral surgery to pedo to adults, to everything. But I feel like we've got a very well-versed TAC covering a lot of territory across the state in terms of knowledge and how to get these folks treated. Is there any other new business that come before us? MS. BICKERS: Justin Derringer -DR. SCHULER: Justin had his hand up. MR. DEARINGER: Well, I just wanted to state that that was an excellent comment by Dr. -- and I wanted to make sure that all of you-all are active with your
legislatures. As you can read that house bill and I'm very familiar with that bill, was in the state budget bill. It was a
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part of an enacted budget, and so that meant that the legislature gave an additional amount of funding to the Indiana Department for Medicaid Services specifically for dental, you know, to be invested in dental care. And so that is always welcome with us here in the Department.

You know, we don't have any part of that or do we have any part of the legislation. However, I would encourage everyone to be very active in this process, you know, especially based on the reaction from legislators on some of the small increases that we tried to give on the 2023 fee schedule. So any additional amount of money we could get for the dental community would be wonderful and that starts with everyone's legislators.

MR. COLEMAN: Dr. Bobrowski, this is Ronnie Coleman.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Yes, go ahead, Ronnie.
MR. COLEMAN: So I'm Ronnie Coleman with Benevis. We support Ruby Dental in Kentucky. I was extremely involved in

[^35]Indiana going back to last summer. And I would just note that, yes, in fact, the legislature did pass the budget. And they did obviously have to pass that, the numbers that were mentioned by Dr. Bobrowski, but those numbers were recommended by the Department. The chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee said many times, he doesn't want to be in the business of setting reimbursement rates. So they took the recommendations to some extent of the Department and that's what got us to where we are now. It wasn't the legis- -- we wanted the legislation to do even more. We wanted the legislature to consider tagging us to like the ADA survey of rates.

But luckily the Medicaid director specifically set up a rate review matrix that goes every four years. She recommended every year indexing of rates, which we've been hammering her on, and she recommended this investment, because it's been a long time.

The other thing that's going to happen
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in Indiana -- and this goes to a point that you guys are talking about earlier -determining if, you know, the adults rates might be lower than child rates and so on. My experience in a bunch of other states is that that happens a fair amount, obviously, that the child rates might be higher than the adult rates. And $I$ think it's a lot because, you know, the -- the adult program is kind of an optional program.

But in Indiana they had a situation where the adult rates were 30 percent higher than the child rates for physician services and dental services and they have had to equalize those rates. CMS forced them to do it. So I'm not sure if that is a -- that was because the policy had not changed or if because they allowed an optional program to be reimbursed higher than the mandatory program.

So if you are looking at wanting to increase prophies, for instance, for adults and leave kids behind, that could be a problem. I just want to put in a pitch. We are primarily child providers at Ruby, but

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we see plenty of adults. And the child providers are just as challenged as the adult providers, especially when it's been years and years and years since substantial increases have been put forth by Kentucky Medicaid. So I just urge the Department to be proactive about what you think we want with the legislators, because they are going to listen to you, at least initially, and then we can go from there.

Obviously, we have champions in the legislature that want to help us. But it would be really helpful if you guys proceeded to talk to them, you know, this summer as you're developing your budget recommendations for next year.

And this is the last point I'll make, Dr. Bobrowski. I found when I talked to the higher ups in Kentucky Medicaid that they often raised the point that they'd like the Medicaid -- actually, all of the dentists to submit to a provider tax in order for them to draw down more money. That's just not going to happen. We know that the vast majority of dentists don't take Medicaid.

[^36]And even for those that do, I mean, they are actually -- it's almost like charity work, as you have heard from the members of the TAC. So I just don't think that should be required. I think we need to get off of that argument, and I think you guys need to be proactive. It's been 20 years since there's been a wholesale rate increase. We know that you're -- you have a significant budget surplus. I mean, this is the time. So anyway, I'll leave it at that,

Dr. Bobrowski.
DR. BOBROWSKI: All right. Thank you, Ronnie. And appreciate those words. But as you can see with any -- well, most any project we get into, whether it be our businesses or at our school functions, fixing the bleachers at the ball court or whatever, you know, it takes a community of workers to get these things done, and it also affects us in our business and us to be able to provide care for folks in our communities. We've just got to rebuild this network.

But is there any other New Business to
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come before us today?
Going on down to our general discussion. I just wanted to briefly bring up the public health coordinators. And we don't have to spend a lot of time on it today, but $I$ was kind of interested in looking at how does the billing work. I know -- well, I've talked a little bit with the Commissioner on this and are the -- kind of the question is, how does the billing work? Are the folks that are certified public health coordinators? Are they considered independent contractors? Or does the -- like, say, a dental office, does the billing come from the dental office and then the dental office is reimbursed for that time?

So those are some questions, if somebody from the State could get back with me or get me some more information. I've got on that website some, but I've still got questions on that. So if somebody could help us with that, get us some more information, we'll -- you know, we can help do what we can with that.
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MR. OWEN: Dr. Bobrowski?
DR. BOBROWSKI: Yes, Stuart.
MR. OWEN: Stuart with WellCare, if I can just chime in here real quick here. The Commissioner shared, I think I saw it was last week, the -- you're talking about the community health workers, I believe?

DR. BOBROWSKI: Yeah.
MR. OWEN: They will be employed by providers and MCOs will pay providers. And the Commissioner actually -- or somebody else, maybe it was the Deputy, shared, I think there are three codes that would be billed. And it's based on, I think, how many members are being helped by the worker.

But, you know, I don't mean to be stepping out of -- out beyond my lane, but it -- you would be hiring -- providers would be hiring the community health workers and it would be covered services. And there are the three codes that will be billed. And I think he said $7 / 1 / 23$ is the go-live date. And I hope I didn't go out of my lane. DR. BOBROWSKI: I'm just making a couple of

[^37]notes here real quick. You said that the provider office would be paid; is that right?

MR. OWEN: Yeah. And that's what's in the actual legislation. The regs are going to be coming later, I believe, but the legislation is that actual providers would hire the community health workers and they will be -- they will be billable, covered Medicaid services. And so the MCOs will be paying providers for those services.

DR. CAUDILL: Stuart?
MR. OWEN: Yes.
DR. CAUDILL: Are those CPT codes?
MR. OWEN: Yes, they are.
DR. CAUDILL: That's what I thought. You might want to investigate that, because that might be a problem since dentists aren't credentialed on the medical side to submit CPT codes.

MR. OWEN: That's a good point.
DR. ROBERTSON: Yeah. Garth, yeah, that was going to be my question also because it came up in discussion earlier today is, has there been any discussion about how you see

[^38]this working in a dental setting, because the codes that are available are medical codes. There may not be anybody on this meeting that can answer that today. MS. COULTER: This is Danita Coulter from DMS. Angie Parker is going to be taking over -- she's going to be handling the community health workers. And that is correct, that it is going to be the CPT codes. She is out on vacation this week. I will take this back to her and let her know that the TAC would like some additional information and have her follow up with you-all.

MR. DEARINGER: And this is Justin
Dearinger. I had my hand up, but I -sometimes that's hard to see. I'm going to see if I can -- I might have had it down. I don't know. Sometimes I try to raise it and it lowers, and sometimes I lower it and it raises, so anyway...

You are correct, there are -- the administrative regulation for community health workers and the -- we have a PowerPoint about community health workers.

[^39]And we have FAQs about community health workers. Those are all coming up very soon. We will have those out to all provider types. Every provider type is going to kind of get their own letter, explaining things to them a little more clear.

But Mr. Owen is right, that is, dentists will be able to hire community health workers and be able to bill for those. They will be CPT codes. And we are working on adding those CPT codes to the dental fee schedule and making sure that our system can process those and figure out how to bill for those. And there will be a billing document just like there is now that will go through and go over how those will be billed. I think the CPT 98960 is for one patient. That rate was actually just increased to $\$ 22.50$ for a 30 -minute increment. And then CPT 89816 is two to four patients. And I think that rate is now $\$ 10.88$ per patient per 30 -minute increment.

CPT 98962 is five to eight patients, and that's $\$ 8.03$ per patient per 30 -minute increment. It's limited to two units per

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week, per member, and no more than 104 units per calendar year, per member.

DR. BOBROWSKI: When you say per member, is that -- do you mean per Medicaid member?

MR. DEARINGER: That is correct, per member. Yeah, not per provider, but per individual -- okay.

So I don't know -- let's see, I can't really share a lot of the actual documentation that we have ready, because it hasn't -- anything that we send out for the view has to go through multiple layers of approval. So it's kind of in its last stages of approval. But we will be posting all that soon and you-all will get links to that and -- so what we've tried to do, or what I've tried to do is just kind of combine the -- taking all the requirements from the administrative regulation that's to be filed within the next month or so, the statute, the billing requirements, and then some of the questions that we've received and kind of compiled all that into one area so that you-all can look through there. And then if you have any questions, just feel

[^40]free to reach out to me or Angie Parker, either one. I think we are both working on the same -- same project. And so we'll be sure -- be happy to answer any questions about community health workers that you might have.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Justin, if you-all could -whenever you-all post that onto the website --

MR. DEARINGER: Yeah. DR. BOBROWSKI: -- if you could let us know.

Now, this is going to sound awful, but historically, there's been so few changes that I did not check the website very often. You know, now, with all these changes going on here, you know, this last year or so, I mean, yeah, I check it a lot more frequently and, you know, just to -- for me to notice that you had an update from April 13th to May the 5th, that's doing pretty good for me to check that that often. But I think a lot of dentists like that just don't -- don't or haven't taken the time to look at that -that website and gather information, but --

[^41]because there hasn't been a whole lot of changes in dental.

So I think, Dr. Robertson, that might be a thing to -- if you send out a ConstantContact here Monday, that we may want to add just that website as a point of reference for Medicaid. Or if your -- if your ConstantContact page is already full, maybe we could do it next week. But just -I think those communications to our ADA members are critical.

All right. Thank you for that report on the community health workers there.

As far as I can detect, I don't think that we've got any MAC recommendations to make. I think most of this can be handled -- I'll work on my e-mails to you-all and hopefully get everything up there by Monday so we can start working on codes and those typos and stuff like that.

I do plan to be our representative at the next MAC meeting, which is at the end of this month on May the 25th at 10:00 Eastern Time.

Are there any other -- I mean, is
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there anything we need to bring before the MAC? Is there any other discussion, general discussion, that I've left off?

DR. PETREY: Yeah, Garth, the only thing -Garth, the only thing that I want to add is to see if there is any objection from anyone with the State or with the MCOs that we can -- as long as we get that written documentation to them, that we can get those reports that we requested back well -- well before that, our next meeting, so we will have time to review those. The sooner the better, but certainly before our next meeting.

DR. BOBROWSKI: And, yes, we will work on that.

And I owe everybody an apology, because I think I had some upgrades on my computer. When I sent out the agenda, you know, usually you just got to hit a couple of keys and it puts it into the proper document form that everybody can open it. But, boy, this time it was just a nightmare getting everybody the proper, I guess, wording that it would even open the attached

[^42]file. So I think I got it worked out there. And that's a little different route, but I figured the route out. So we'll -hopefully the next time we send out an agenda, it won't be so cumbersome.

But our next TAC meeting is August the 11th, Friday, from to 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. And that's all I have. MS. BICKERS: Joe, I did want to let you know that when the Department gets data requests, they -- we usually have a 90-day turnaround. So it would be right about your-all's meeting time if $I$ got them today. We try to get them out faster than that, but we do allow 90 days for the data to be gathered, collected and reviewed, but we can definitely most certainly try to get that to you as quickly as possible once they are received.

DR. PETREY: I appreciate that. We -- we keep talking about it in our meetings and amongst ourselves between our meetings and need to have the formal written to you-all so that we could -- we can get that done, because the five things that we came up

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with were a review of minutes going over a year past that where we had talked about requesting data and just haven't formally done it well enough to get that data. So the 90 days is completely understandable, but we'll try to get that to you as quickly as possible. Thank you.

MS. BICKERS: You're welcome. Absolutely.
DR. BOBROWSKI: Well, at this time we'll need a motion to adjourn.

DR. SCHULER: Garth, I'll make a motion to adjourn.

DR. BOBROWSKI: Need a second.
DR. PETREY: Second.
DR. BOBROWSKI: All in favor say Aye. (Members vote affirmatively.)

DR. BOBROWSKI: Thank you. A great meeting and I appreciate everyone's comments and participation. So you-all have a good weekend. Bye-bye.

THEREUPON, the Meeting was concluded.

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STATE OF KENTUCKY )
COUNTY OF FAYETTE )
I, JOLINDA S. TODD, Registered
Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for
the State of Kentucky at Large, certify that this
transcript is a true and accurate record of the
Dental Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
My commission expires: August 24, 2023.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office on this the 31st day of July 2023.

JOLINDA S. TODD, RPR, CCR(KY) NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE AT LARGE

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