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CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES
CHILDREN'S HEALTH
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Videoconference
September 13, 2023
Commencing at 2:03 p.m.

Shana W. Spencer, RPR, CRR
Court Reporter

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APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Donna Grigsby, MD

Alicia Whatley

Mandy Heacock

Dr. Amanda Ashley

Courtney Smith, PhD

Cherie Dimar

1 MS. BICKERS: Donna, one of your
2 Mandys just joined. But it just says
3 "Mandy," so I don't know which one.

4 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Well,
5 hopefully, I would like -- let me go back to
6 the first item on the agenda, which is to
7 welcome our new members. I believe we have a
8 new member of the TAC who has joined us. So
9 if you could introduce yourself and the other
10 TAC members, we can also introduce ourselves
11 and talk briefly about our -- what
12 organizations we represent.

13 MS. BICKERS: Mandy, were you able
14 to get logged in?

15 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Mandy, are you
16 there? I see a Mandy. Is this --

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're
18 wanting you to introduce yourself.

19 DR. ASHLEY: Are we on here? Okay.
20 Hello. Hi. This is Dr. Ashley.

21 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Welcome to the
22 Child's Health TAC. Can you tell us a little
23 bit about yourself?

24 DR. ASHLEY: Yes. Yes. So I'm a
25 pediatric dentist. I'm now in my 25th year

1 of practicing dentistry. I own -- I practice
2 here in South Central Kentucky, in Bowling
3 Green, Kentucky; Hopkinsville; and Glasgow.

4 We see at least 60 percent of our total
5 patients with Medicaid. And I feel like with
6 my background in public health from my 11
7 years in the Indian Health Service in Barrow,
8 Alaska, and with coming -- you know, working
9 day-to-day here on the ground in South
10 Central Kentucky, I might have a bit to offer
11 as a provider that sees a high -- a high
12 number of kids with Medicaid and just some of
13 the challenges that we face.

14 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Well, thank you so
15 much and welcome to the group.

16 DR. ASHLEY: Thank you.

17 CHAIR GRIGSBY: We are happy to
18 have you with us. I'm Donna Grigsby. I am
19 currently the chair of the Child Health TAC.
20 I am a pediatrician at UK, and I am
21 representing the Kentucky -- or the Kentucky
22 chapter of the American Academy of
23 Pediatrics.

24 DR. SMITH: Hi, Mandy. I'm
25 Courtney Smith, and I'm the co-chair of the

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TAC. And I'm a clinical psychologist -- actually, a pediatric psychologist working at the University of Louisville and Norton Children's Hospital. I'm actually the solid organ transplant psychologist, so I work mostly in the hospital in the medical clinics.

MS. DIMAR: And hi, Mandy. I'm Cherie Dimar. I'm with the Kentucky Parent Teacher Association. And we not only try to help parents get more involved in the schools and be in leadership positions in the schools as parents but, also, we do a lot of advocacy work around the areas of health and safety.

DR. ASHLEY: All right. Thank you.

DR. SMITH: I failed to say that I represent Kentucky Psychological Association. Sorry about that.

DR. ASHLEY: Thanks.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: And, Alicia, are you here?

(No response.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: I thought I saw her.

MS. BICKERS: She was here a second

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ago.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yeah. I thought she was here.

MS. BICKERS: She's turned her camera off. Maybe she had to step away briefly.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Oh, okay. Okay. When she -- I'll keep my eye out, and when she comes back, hopefully she can introduce herself. But Alicia is with Kentucky -- oh, there she is hopefully.

Alicia, can you hear us? We were just introducing --

MS. WHATLEY: Hi. This is Alicia -- can you hear me?

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yes.

MS. WHATLEY: Maybe not. Can you hear me? Sorry.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yes. Alicia, we -- is that you? We can hear you.

MS. WHATLEY: Okay. Yes. Awesome. Sorry. I'm having some Internet issues, so I had to switch over.

My name is Alicia Whatley. I'm with Kentucky Youth Advocates, and so we work on a

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lot of health policy as it relates to kids in the state.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: All right. And we'll keep our eye out. We have one more new member who's taking Michael Flynn's place. She may not have been able to join us today, but we'll definitely keep an eye out.

So welcome to our new members, and thank you to our not-so-new members for being here today.

We have approved the minutes, so we're going to move forward. I am always very respectful of everyone's time. So we're going to move to old business, which is the DMS report on social determinants of health.

For those of you that were here last month and for those of you that are new to us, we actually had wonderful reports last meeting, two months ago, from our MCOs about all the services that they provide to families, particularly those that are facing homelessness.

And so DMS is going to give us a report on kind of their resources for social determinants of health. I'm not sure who is

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speaking to us, but I'm going to be quiet now.

MS. PARKER: Hello, Donna. This is Angie Parker. I'm the Director of Quality and Population Health, which part of the -- the social determinants of health, we have a branch for that. But who will be speaking on the topic, one social determinant of health is the access to transportation, and that's Rachel Roehrig. She'll be going over that presentation.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Thank you. So, Rachel, would you like to start?

MS. BICKERS: And, Donna, just to cut in really quick, it looks like our other new member -- our other Mandy has joined.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Oh, perfect. So let's see. I'm -- I know. I'm trying to look at the screen to find Mandy Heacock. Mandy, the members of the TAC just introduced ourselves. So if you would like to -- since you're the newest member or one of the two new members, would you like to introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about yourself?

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MS. HEACOCK: Sure. Can you hear me?

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yes.

MS. HEACOCK: Okay. I'm Mandy Heacock. I am a youth service center coordinator in Frankfort at Bondurant Middle School and Western Hills High School.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. And you're representing the FRYSCkys, I believe; is that correct?

MS. HEACOCK: Yes.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Wonderful. Well, welcome to the group.

Okay. Let me turn it back over to Rachel.

MS. ROEHRIG: Thank you, Donna. And good afternoon, everyone. Give me just a minute, and I'm going to share my screen. Okay. Can everyone see this all right? All right. Good deal.

So we first presented this to the Disparity TAC, and it was requested to be reiterated here. So we were very happy to do that. Our goal with this particular bit of research was to combine all current

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transportation options that are currently available to Medicaid recipients and to have that in one place so that we have a more holistic understanding of what access to care the families and the Medicaid members currently have available.

So as we go through, we're going to review transportation that's provided by the State, different ones by the MCOs, by community-based organizations, and through public transportation services within a targeted area. The area that we targeted for this presentation is in Eastern Kentucky.

So why did we choose to look at Eastern Kentucky specifically? We've identified 27 different counties whose population consists of 50 percent more that make up the Medicaid members compared to the population of that county. So these counties are highlighted here in yellow on the Kentucky map and are predominantly in Eastern Kentucky.

Here we have a graph that shows the enrollment in the targeted four areas or four regions that are based on the identified counties in Eastern Kentucky that is broken

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down by the MCO enrollments for those members. So the top MCOs for that targeted area is WellCare that's shown in green followed by Aetna that's shown in red.

Similar to our previous Kentucky map showing the Eastern Kentucky area with the highest Medicaid population compared to the county population, this map also shows, with the dark green areas in there, the worst health outcomes across the state are also mostly and predominantly located in Eastern Kentucky.

So for these reasons, we're going to take a closer look into what transportation services are available to Medicaid members in this specific area and the utilization of those services that are taking place.

Here we have the three different transportation options that are provided by the State. So we have emergency ambulance transportation services; nonemergency ambulance transportation; and the most widely known and used, nonemergency medical transportation.

So it can get a little complex. So to

1 break down how it works for Kentucky, DMS
2 contracts with the transportation cabinet to
3 oversee all Medicaid transportation services.
4 The transportation cabinet oversees the human
5 service transportation delivery program
6 through which there are 16 regional brokers
7 that can either provide the transportation
8 services themselves or subcontract with other
9 transportation providers that are in their
10 specific area.

11 If a rider does not express a
12 preference, then the broker will select the
13 provider for them. And the transportation
14 type will depend on the transportation that
15 is accessible for the client and appropriate
16 to meet their medical condition and personal
17 capabilities while also being at the lowest
18 cost.

19 Transportation brokers are the only ones
20 who can schedule NEMT services. Their other
21 specific tasks are shown here broken down,
22 and they can utilize subcontractors to
23 provide the NEMT rides by taxi, sedan,
24 stretcher vehicle, public bus tickets or bus
25 passes, accessible vans, and private

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automobile rides.

These are the details on how Medicaid members can request those NEMT services in general. So this is for you all to have to review and refer back to as needed.

So we're going to take a closer look at NEMT, and what we found is that trips are continuing to rise, nearing pre-COVID levels. Approximately 240,837 trips per month were utilized by Medicaid members from July 1st, 2022, to February 28th, 2023.

So there's no caps on the number of times a member can schedule a needed trip to a service. Transportation is available in all 120 counties. There is a 72-hour notice that's required for scheduling, and transportation after discharge from the hospital can be requested during normal operating hours without that prior notice. All transportation services are ADA compliant.

So DMS has proposed regulation changes to help related to transportation that includes removing the current restriction that members currently have requesting NEMT

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services in which they cannot have a vehicle in their own household in order to be NEMT eligible. A vehicle cannot be in the individual's name unless there is a doctor's note stating that they can't operate the vehicle or a mechanic's note saying that it's no longer in operation.

There's also a proposal to allow parents or guardians of minors to request a two-week exemption for the child for a Medicaid-covered service trip with their parent or guardian as they have the same ownership status as their custodial parent or guardian.

Transportation providers will no longer be able to self-refer members. And upon approval of the 1115 waiver, NEMT will also be provided for methadone treatment services. Additional NEMT data is that for fiscal year 2022, there were 2,385,922 trips provided for Medicaid members.

Urgent care transportation is available 24/7 including holidays. Urgent care is defined as an episodic situation in which there's not a threat to life or limb, but the

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recipient needs to be seen within 12 hours in order to avoid the onset of an emergency medical condition. So this does not include an emergency trip that is to be addressed by qualified emergency services. Transportation to the emergency room is not covered through NEMT unless there is an order for a direct hospital admit through the emergency room.

Of importance is for those that need to bring a child or other individual to their appointment, it is 100 percent up to the transportation provider that's actually providing that transportation service to the client directly to provide the transportation without charging them for the child or individual. It depends on a lot of different factors but mainly the availability of seats and if the other seats have been purchased by other members that need to get to their appointments.

Vehicles used in the program consist of revenue-producing seats. So for the transportation provider, it's up to them if they will allow a member to bring someone else without charging them. Usually, this is

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not an issue. The way that it works is the member is put in contact with the transportation provider directly by the transportation broker. So that way, the two of them can work out those logistics.

Medicaid doesn't have the authority to make that decision. Only the transportation provider has that ability. And most subcontractors do allow members to bring child in most circumstances.

So now shifting to the MCO world. MCOs can provide additional assistance for their members through value-added benefits. A value-added benefit is defined as any benefit or service that's offered by the MCO with that benefit or service -- or when that benefit or service is not a covered benefit per the state plan. So these benefits are additional, and they're subject to change annually as determined by each specific MCO.

So breaking down these value-added benefits for 2022 by MCO, we have Aetna Better Health of Kentucky that offered two transportation value-added benefits, one called enhanced transportation. That was for

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going to job interviews, training, going to the grocery store, community health services. And there were five members that utilized this service in those 27 identified counties in the year 2022.

The second value-added benefit is called family transportation, and that's for members enrolled in their Maternity Matters program that can receive transportation provided for the family including a car seat for children. However, there was zero members in those 27 identified counties that utilized that service. Both value-added benefits are limited to ten round trips per year.

For WellCare for 2022, they did not have any current transportation value-added benefits. What they are able to do is make referrals to Kentucky's NEMT program through their Community Connections help line. The referrals include general transportation support and medical transportation support.

We found that 52 members utilized the general transportation services offered by WellCare in those 27 counties. In 2022, there was 52 members. There was 83 members

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that utilized the specific medical transportation value-added benefit or referral in 2022 for those targeted counties. And the highest number of referrals to the NEMT program was -- through WellCare was Floyd and Perry County.

UnitedHealthcare doesn't currently have any transportation value-added benefits. They offer nonemergency stretcher transportation as their value-added benefit and -- which it's not provided through NEMT transportation brokers. And there were zero members that utilized that resource in 2022 within those 27 counties.

Anthem offered one transportation value-added benefit in the form of a 50-dollar gas card, bus pass, or Uber card. And that's for all members that are age 18 and over that completed a health risk assessment within the first 6 months of the year and a wellness check within 12 months. They could obtain this benefit on a quarterly basis with a max allowance of \$200 per member.

With the highest utilization thus far,

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658 members utilized this value-added benefit in those 27 counties in year 2022. The top counties of utilization was Whitley, Knox, and McCreary. And the gas card, bus pass, or Uber card has increased for 2023 on a biannual basis to \$100.

Passport by Molina Healthcare offers two transportation value-added benefits, one in the form of a 50-dollar gas card, bus pass, or Uber card. Similar to Anthem, however, the qualification in order to get that value-added benefit is a bit different. This is only for members that are already engaged in supportive services through case management. So they have been identified as needing a higher level of care, higher level of need for those case management services.

There were 40 members that utilized this value-added benefit in those 27 counties in 2022 with the top counties being Whitley again, Knox, and Johnson.

The second value-added benefit that Passport provided is a reimbursement program for lodging, meals, and transportation to medical appointments. Dependent on

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enrollment in case management, similar to the first value-added benefit, and there's other stipulated limitations.

Nineteen members utilized the reimbursement value-added benefit in 2022 with the top counties being Bell, Magoffin, and, again, Whitley.

Humana Healthy Horizons does not currently offer any transportation value-added benefits. Instead, similar to United, their care managers make referrals to Kentucky's NEMT program for their members. And they provide follow-up with the member to confirm the transportation scheduling was complete, that they have any follow-up visits scheduled and taken care of on that end.

There was a total of 36 referrals made in those 27 counties using this approach in 2022 with the highest number of referrals being in Lawrence County.

Of note, Humana also has two pilot programs that include maternity transportation in Louisville and a Buss Pass Pilot program to members receiving care at Seven Counties Services.

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At the very end of this presentation in the appendices, there is a much more thorough breakdown of this information for you all to look at when you have additional time. This is a much higher-level overview.

So here we have the community-based organization of Community Action Agencies and what transportation services they provide. They include mobility service, door-to-door service, and curb-to-curb service. The transportation they provide can be used for employment purposes, medical appointments, pharmacy, education, shopping, or just to visit someone. They do need a 24-hour notice to schedule that.

And below here, this 800 number and the *capky.org* has a lot of additional information for individuals and residents that may want to go that route if they don't qualify for NEMT.

There's also public transportation; right? And that's for all individuals. The targeted counties' transportation providers are listed here to have contact information for those particular counties and regions.

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So we've discussed the issue with access to transportation and the different things that are available to the public and to Medicaid members. So to summarize, transportation assistance is available by the state, MCOs, community-based organizations, and through public transportation, all of which are ADA compliant.

Additional transportation support is needed in the Eastern Kentucky area where our identified counties that consist of 50 percent or more of residents being Medicaid members can be focused on.

We did find in this research that the highest utilization in these areas of transportation services is in Whitley County, Floyd, Knox, and Bell County.

NEMT is the largest used transportation service for Medicaid members currently. And here, this is a clickable link where it has NEMT workbook that has a lot of good information on the ins and outs of the NEMT process and breaking down at a very understandable level how they all connect and how that works.

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We also found that the top value-added benefit for transportation used by members in 2022 in our area was the 50-dollar gas card, bus pass, or Uber card that had limited eligibility requirements in order to receive it.

The great news is, is that there are opportunities to increase access to transportation for our members. We can continue and we will continue to evaluate ways to improve transportation and access to care for underserved communities.

MCOs can and have began evaluating their value-added benefits related to transportation; member and provider education on how to connect with the local community-based organizations like Community Action and public transportation options if the member does not qualify for NEMT services; can improve communication regarding the NEMT process to members and to update that NEMT regulation.

Now, again, located at the end here, this appendices has a lot of really good information that breaks down how exactly can

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members access these value-added benefits at the MCO level and additional information for NEMT broker listings. So I definitely would recommend going through that. It's got a lot of good information as well.

So with that, I'll be happy to take any questions, comments, concerns.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Thank you. Any questions or comments by members or by the MCOs, for that matter?

(No response.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: I did have a couple of questions myself.

MS. ROEHRIG: Sure.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: One is that I know that a sticking point for some families is that they have a car. Even if there's a car that is -- and so can you explain a little bit more about the change in the regulation with the car?

Because I know sometimes our families run into problems with: We have a car, but Dad has to go to work, or Mom has to go to work. And we don't have a second car to get the child to appointments.

1 So can you comment on that a little bit?

2 MS. ROHRIG: I can, but Justin
3 Dearinger would be even better. He's in
4 charge of that proposal.

5 So I wonder -- Justin, are you on the
6 call by chance?

7 MS. BICKERS: He's not.

8 MS. ROHRIG: Ah. Okay.

9 MS. BICKERS: I was looking to see
10 if maybe Jonathan was on for regulation
11 questions, but I don't see him either.

12 MS. ROHRIG: Oh, goodness. Okay.
13 Well, we can certainly get a more thorough
14 answer when Justin is able to join. But we
15 do recognize that that is a restriction
16 holding people back from scheduling and being
17 eligible for NEMT, and that's why it's part
18 of that proposal so -- with removing that
19 restriction.

20 So that way, once -- if and when this is
21 approved, if they have a vehicle in the home
22 that's in their name, that should no longer
23 be an issue as long as there is a doctor's
24 note stating they can't operate it or a
25 mechanic's note saying that it's not

1 operational.

2 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. So -- but
3 they still have to have a note -- right? --
4 that says the vehicle isn't operational. So
5 it really isn't going to help with the issue
6 if you have a car and somebody has to go to
7 work; right?

8 MS. ROHRIG: Well, no, not
9 necessarily. So the first proposal being to
10 remove the current restriction. So right
11 now, that's the restriction that you're
12 talking about, and we are wanting that
13 completely removed.

14 However, say that there is -- some
15 people have a lot of vehicles, you know, left
16 on their property. It's not working anymore,
17 but it is potentially a resource. So the
18 idea is to say that even though this vehicle
19 is in this person's name, we have a
20 mechanic's note saying that it's no longer
21 operational. So we're not going to consider
22 this in the eligibility determination.

23 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay.

24 MS. ROHRIG: Yes.

25 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Thank you.

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MS. ROEHRIG: Yeah. So good changes coming.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: And clearly I was confused. Yeah. Okay.

MS. ROEHRIG: I probably didn't articulate that right, so I apologize.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: And is there a restriction on if it's -- if the visit is for a child, we know they have to have a parent. Because you were talking about parents having appointments and bringing children. Is there a limit? Can a child have both parents? Can a child have one parent? Is there any restriction on that currently?

MS. ROEHRIG: I can definitely take that back and verify with Office of Transportation since they're over that. But I would suspect that it would be very similar to that with the -- bringing the child and the transportation provider, if they have the seats available because it's charged by each seat.

But let me make sure and get back to you from the Office of Transportation. So that way, we get an official answer.

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CHAIR GRIGSBY: Because I would think you would have to -- you know, a child can't bring themselves, I mean, can't come by themselves.

MS. ROEHRIG: Right.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: So I feel like you would -- it would have to be two purchased seats for a -- at least for a child's visit.

MS. ROEHRIG: Yes. The question is about both parents. I'm not sure about the both parents. But yes, of course, a guardian or parent would -- at least one, yes.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay.

MS. WHATLEY: Donna, this is Alicia Whatley. I also had a question there.

Can you all hear me now?

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yes.

MS. WHATLEY: Okay. Perfect. So I'm having Internet issues today.

Kind of in the same vein there, we've had some folks report to us difficulty with using the transportation when the appointment is for a child who's covered and the parent is using transportation to bring that child. But they also have siblings that the parent,

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you know, needs to bring with them because they don't have child care for siblings.

So just -- I just want to raise that as another barrier for families that have more than one child in the home, and the parent doesn't have the ability to leave another child behind and needs to bring multiple children to the same appointment.

MS. ROHRIG: Absolutely. And that's a wonderful point. I'll definitely take that back to them at Office of Transportation. It is usually at the discretion of the individual transportation provider and how they do that. But, again, let me get you an official answer because those are great questions.

DR. THERIOT: Hi, Alicia. That's -- this is Dr. Theriot. That's exactly what I was going to say.

And sometimes when the appointment is booked, there are no other passengers. But then by the time the driver comes to pick up the family, there are other passengers. And so, you know, kind of at the last minute, you can't fit your other kids in the car because

1 there's other people in there. And, you
2 know, without a warning, the mom can't -- you
3 know, can't benefit from -- from the ride.

4 So I think it is dependent upon the --
5 not the broker but the provider itself. But,
6 you know, things change, and nothing is
7 guaranteed. And that's part of the problem,
8 at least for the pediatric population.

9 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Anything else from
10 anyone? Those are excellent. Thank you for
11 bringing those up.

12 MS. WHATLEY: Donna, I just have
13 one more question. This is Alicia again, and
14 I apologize if this was mentioned. But do
15 the transportation providers have car seats
16 and other safety devices available for
17 families that maybe don't have a car, so they
18 don't have that with them?

19 MS. ROEHRIG: Yes, they do. The
20 transportation providers have that equipment
21 in order to provide anyone that needs ADA
22 compliance or to bring a child. So they do
23 have that available. But with the provider
24 agreeing to everything that we're talking
25 about, not quite sure on that. So I'll

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definitely take that into account when asking Office of Transportation.

MS. WHATLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: I also noticed that when you were talking about the value-added benefit for Anthem subscribers, that it said over 18. This is a value for subscribers or for members over 18.

So is there nothing available for children?

MS. ROEHRIG: Not specifically. It is -- and Anthem -- if someone from Anthem is on here, you're more than welcome to come into the conversation.

But no, each value-added benefit has its own requirement and eligibility. And so for theirs particularly, it would have to be for those age 18 and older in order to qualify to get that Uber card or bus pass, gas card.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Which may work if everyone in the family is a member but not helpful to children if it's not available.

MS. ROEHRIG: Absolutely.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: If the family is not covered; right?

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MS. ROEHRIG: And, see, that's really good points to bring up right now because a lot of MCOs are re-evaluating their value-added benefit program and seeing how to make them better. So that's definitely something I hope all MCOs take on board as well.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Any other comments from members? Any other questions? Any other comments from the MCOs?

(No response.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: So perhaps we can keep this under old business for our meeting in November, to follow up on some of these questions that we've put forth today.

MS. ROEHRIG: Sounds good.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ROEHRIG: Thank you, everyone.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Without any further questions or comments, I don't have anything under new business unless someone wants to bring up anything at this point.

(No response.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Moving forward to the future topic discussions.

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Some things that we've brought up in the past were obesity, juvenile justice issues, bullying, and immunization updates.

Anyone want to comment on any of those topics or recommend that that be the topic for next meeting? Or if there are any other topics that folks feel like we need to discuss at our November meeting.

MS. ROEHRIG: Hey, Donna. This is Rachel Roehrig again. Just to put that out there for everyone on the TAC, we are now currently working on a homelessness research project. So if that's something that the TAC wants to see, we'll be happy to present that if desired.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: That would be very helpful. That was the topic of our last meeting, and the MCOs talked about the various resources that they have for members. But yes, if there's -- if there's additional information that's available, that -- I would very much appreciate that.

MS. ROEHRIG: Absolutely.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay.

MS. BICKERS: Rachel, my apologies.

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What did you say that was? The homeless --
did you say that was a pilot program?

MS. ROEHRIG: It's a homeless
research project --

MS. BICKERS: Research.

MS. ROEHRIG: -- for -- yeah, for
the state of Kentucky.

MS. BICKERS: Thank you. I'm
trying to do my follow-up notes for you guys.

MS. ROEHRIG: Perfect. You're
good.

DR. SMITH: Are there any other
areas of social determinants of health that
DMS is working on right now, or that one is
it right now?

MS. ROEHRIG: Angie, I'm not sure
if you want to speak to that. I know on the
research end, for research and analytics,
transportation. And we're still working on,
okay, now that we have this data and we have
input from it, where can we go from here?
How can we make it better?

And so the next viewpoint would be for
homelessness. So we're taking our time to
thoroughly go through each one, but that's

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where we are on that currently.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay.

DR. SMITH: Thanks.

MS. PARKER: Yes. There's a lot of different variables that we're looking at for equity and social determinants of health, so it's an ever-arching project actually so -- you know, in trying to address race and ethnicity issues as it relates to health care as well. So there will be a lot more to share in the maybe not-so-near future but hopefully in the future.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: So it sounds like for next meeting, we can talk a little bit more about the homelessness research project and then have some follow-up in old business for additional questions that we raised for transportation issues.

And it sounds like in the future, we're going to have a lot of discussions about what we're learning about social determinants of health and how we're addressing that.

Any other thoughts about future topics or any information we need on these topics from either the MCOs or from DMS for next

1 meeting? It sounds like maybe we'll have a
2 lot of information on the homelessness
3 project.

4 MS. PARKER: We may or may not.
5 This is a new project we're starting, so we
6 can't guarantee that it'll be ready for the
7 next meeting.

8 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay.

9 DR. SMITH: I may be speaking a
10 little out of turn. I know that the COVID
11 vaccine was just approved, and I don't know
12 if that's interesting to anybody as far as
13 whether that will be provided or paid for.
14 I'm assuming it would be by -- if families
15 wanted to get that for their children.

16 Was it recommended for six months and up
17 or --

18 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yes.

19 DR. SMITH: I know it's still
20 waiting to be released, but I don't know if
21 we wanted an update on that at any point or
22 if that's curious for anyone else. I just
23 know that we've sure got a lot of it going
24 on -- a lot of COVID right here in the clinic
25 where I work right now. So it seems like

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it's alive and well.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Yes.

That --

MS. BICKERS: We have -- oh.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: -- may be something to add and then I think Dr. James has his hand up.

DR. JAMES: Yes. Immunizations is on the list. And just with the whole category of immunizations that are on the listing that are being incentivized for health plans is: How do we create a collaboration? We know that we're going to have issues as far as those children under age eight who may need two flu shots in the same season to start the process and how we capture that.

The issue of HPV immunizations. This is going to be a collaborative effort that we all have to be engaged in so that -- as a pediatrician who sees patients on weekends but in a health plan during the week, I recognize that this is a complex issue. And it's difficult to get parents engaged. But I'd love to be a part of whatever you have to

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do on there.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. So --

MR. OWEN: Yeah. I'm sorry.

Stuart Owen with WellCare, and I was thinking the same thing. This is such a critical issue, the immunizations with children. If there's somehow -- I don't know. All of us, maybe we could brainstorm a little bit or -- you know, the challenges. I know there are -- you know, I think because of COVID vaccine misinformation perhaps, that has spilled over in, like, flu immunizations and others.

And just -- you know, there are different challenges. But I don't know if there's some way -- you know like Dr. James was talking about -- where we can collaborate or brainstorm, you know, especially, you know, with all of us because we're whatever, relevant stakeholders. But on that, how we can improve immunization, particularly for children.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Perhaps -- I know there's data out there about vaccine hesitancy and our vaccination rates and how

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COVID -- you know, the concern about the virus itself kept a lot of families out of health care for a period of time.

Dr. Theriot, is that something that -- is that some information that would be easy to share with the group so that we could have further discussions about how to incentivize or -- I assume you all have that information.

DR. THERIOT: About the rates of COVID vaccine or flu vaccine or all vaccines?

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yeah. Just the overall -- I know that there was pretty significant concern that because families stopped coming to the doctors' offices for a while around COVID because of their concern about exposure, that our immunization rates fell off pretty significantly throughout the country, not just in Kentucky.

Do we know kind of where we are relative to -- you know, I assume that we're moving back up, but I probably shouldn't assume that.

DR. THERIOT: We're not moving -- we're not back to where we were, but we can get that information together for you for the

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next meeting.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay.

DR. JAMES: I think that doing a barrier analysis can help because part of it is the parents' hesitancy. Part of it has to do with EHRs.

I feel very good at least where -- at a family health center, that when I'm seeing children, there is something that even I can handle really quickly to show what's there. But I know not all EHRs will make it easy for the physician to say this is what is needed.

There's staff time that's involved. There's the participation in VFC or not. All of these things are barriers that could be listed and analyzed and if we could collaboratively find ways around those barriers.

DR. BROSHEARS: Dr. Broshears from Anthem. I want to second everything Dr. James just said and, you know, we'd be also happy to collaborate with the other MCOs and providers to try to solve this problem. I agree. It's multifactorial, and we've kind of got to get to the root of it and start

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over with making patients and members trust us again; that, you know, their providers and insurance companies are doing the right things in encouraging these vaccines.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. I see a message down in the chat from Jessica Beal about an early childhood vaccine task force. Jessica, would you like to comment on that or --

MS. BEAL: Well, I just -- you know, I know Dr. Theriot can pull some lovely things together, but there are other folks in the commonwealth connected with the Cabinet in other spaces that are actively working on this. Some of the MCOs participate.

I know we've got a meeting tomorrow specifically to talk about provider training opportunities. So I just -- I guess -- not that I don't want Dr. Theriot to have to pull all that information together.

But I guess maybe knowing that there's such an organization working on this, maybe the TAC might like them to come and present to the TAC since I don't think any of you -- I don't see any of you on those meetings

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myself so...

CHAIR GRIGSBY: I think that would be very helpful, to get as much information as we can and what's going on out to kind of address that. I'm looking back up.

DR. THERIOT: I think that's a good idea because they probably have access to more than just Medicaid information, if you're interested in that, versus -- you know, what we would get is Medicaid.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Well, and I think -- I think there is a comment here from Matthew Walton that, you know, families get vaccines in different places. I think the state registry has been very helpful in pulling all of that information together for physicians -- or for providers so that we can pull that into our records.

But I know certainly in Lexington, there was a practice that was not entering vaccines into the registry. And that practice closed, and there's a huge concern that children who had those vaccines, there's no documentation anywhere that families can get their hands on if they didn't already have it in their

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hands.

So I don't know how widespread an issue that is in terms of, you know, how many practices throughout the state aren't using the state vaccine registry, and maybe that's information that we can either get from that task force or from DMS.

DR. THERIOT: Yeah. I think that would be something that the task force would have, but it is a worry that people don't -- you know, we're not a mandated state. So we have the registry, but it's only as good as, you know, data going in.

So when you have a new kid, if they're up to date, hallelujah, that's great. But if they're not, you don't really know if they're up to date or, you know, if they're not based on what's in the registry. So I do -- I personally think it would be great to have a mandated registry so that we could trust it better than we can now.

And I'm worried that a lot of people don't take VFC. And especially with the new RSV vaccine that's, what, \$300, something like that, a shot, that it's going to be a

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problem getting that out there.

You know, the hospitals aren't part of VFC. A lot of times, you would give that dose in the hospital. So, you know, I do think looking at the barriers to VFC would be a big -- a big activity to take ahold of.

MS. BEAL: Dr. Grigsby, I know that has been a hot topic with that task force in particular, and they gave us a lovely map of where there were real concerns in terms of which counties are really lacking VFC providers. I think that might be of interest to you.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay.

MS. BICKERS: And, Dr. Theriot, this is Erin. Would you be able to point me to a contact person for that task force, so I can invite them to our next meeting?

DR. THERIOT: No. But maybe Jessica can.

MS. BEAL: Yeah. I would -- yeah. It would probably be Crystal Back.

MS. BICKERS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yeah. Thank you, Erin. I was just going to ask that question:

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Who do we need to reach out to for that group? So thank you all. Thank you all for your input.

It sounds like that perhaps the next meeting, we really do want to focus on immunization barriers and kind of brainstorm, and we can certainly have some follow-up on the transportation issues. But perhaps we should give the homelessness research project maybe a little more time to gather information and perhaps move that one to January.

DR. SMITH: That sounds good.

MS. PARKER: I just want to add that I -- from a quality perspective, we are working on improving immunization rates for children as far as a value-based purchasing program with the MCOs starting in 2024. So I can do a high-level overview of that, if you'd like, of what that looks like.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yes. That would be -- that would be great. Thank you.

So it sounds like we have a very -- you know, in talking through this, we have a very robust amount of information that we can put

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together before the next meeting and then perhaps put off the homelessness research project until our January 2024 meeting.

Any other comments or questions from the group?

DR. BROSHEARS: Dr. Grigsby, Dr. Broshears from Anthem. I want to go back to your previous question. I didn't want to answer regarding our pediatric benefits regarding transportation without having the right answer for sure.

But it appears that any member under the age of 18 who is enrolled with either a case manager or their member empowerment team can be eligible for that benefit. But the benefit does -- obviously, the gift card does go to the parents, in the parents' name. But they are available -- eligible.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Wonderful. Thank you. That's very helpful.

DR. BROSHEARS: And I can get you those numbers if you would like them, how many have received the benefit.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Thank you.

All right. Anything else?

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(No response.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: So let's move to any recommendations that this group wants to take to the MAC.

(No response.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Anything we want -- or do we want to collect more information on the transportation reform before we make any recommendations to the MAC?

DR. SMITH: We can.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. And, Erin, when is the next MAC meeting?

MS. BICKERS: The 27th. Oh, hold on. 28th. My apologies. That Thursday, the 28th.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Again, I keep saying I'm going to block my clinic because that's my regular clinic day. But I'm going to have to anticipate blocking it for the November MAC rather than for -- for the September MAC.

Are there any members who could attend the MAC on the 28th?

MS. WHATLEY: I have a conflict that day. I can't attend.

1 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Thank you
2 for attending in the past for us, Alicia. I
3 know Dr. Smith and I both have clinic on
4 Thursdays, and certainly I can -- Erin, what
5 is the date of the November MAC?

6 MS. BICKERS: November -- oh, MAC
7 meeting, not your TAC meeting. My apologies.
8 It is the 30th of November, and that's the
9 last MAC meeting of the year.

10 CHAIR GRIGSBY: And that is on a
11 Thursday; correct?

12 MS. BICKERS: Yes, ma'am.

13 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. I will see
14 if I can block my clinic for that. It's at
15 10:00? It's a morning --

16 MS. BICKERS: It's from 10:00 to
17 12:30. Yes, ma'am.

18 CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. If no one
19 else can be there on the 28th, that's fine.
20 I will try to get my clinic blocked
21 (inaudible).

22 Okay. Our next meeting is November the
23 8th from 2:00 to 4:00.

24 Is there anything else from any of the
25 members of the TAC or from anyone from the

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MCOs or from DMS?

MS. ROEHRIG: Hey, Donna. Sorry. This is Rachel Roehrig with DMS again. I just want to make sure that we get all of your questions addressed.

Did you have an additional question regarding the NEMT regulation proposal? I want to make sure we reach out to Justin to get an answer if you still had outstanding questions.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: I don't know that there were any other questions other than the ones we discussed. Did anyone -- I know we talked about additional children, how many parents are allowed. We sort of got the answer about the car, removing the requirement that the family couldn't have a car in their name.

MS. ROEHRIG: Right. Okay. All right. If anything else --

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Yeah. I think that was --

MS. ROEHRIG: -- comes up, yeah, just let me know.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Thank you.

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MS. ROHRIG: Thank you.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: And can anyone else remember anything else we discussed?

(No response.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. Well, we've gotten a lot of information, and we've done it very efficiently today. So I think I'm -- we're going to be able to give the group the gift of time.

If the members of the TAC can stay on, but I do need a motion to adjourn.

DR. SMITH: I motion to adjourn.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: And a second?

MS. DIMAR: I second.

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Thank you. And all in favor?

(Aye.)

CHAIR GRIGSBY: Okay. If the members of the TAC could stay on, so we can discuss -- I think we've set up next month's -- or next meeting's agenda, but I just want to double check.

And thank you all for all the great information today and for the great participation and for your ideas about future

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topics. Thank you all for being here and for being so helpful, and we will adjourn. Thank you, guys. We will see you again at 2:00 on November the 8th.

(Meeting concluded at 3:00 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SHANA SPENCER, Certified
Realtime Reporter and Registered Professional
Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing
typewritten pages are a true and accurate transcript
of the proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not employed
by, related to, nor of counsel for any of the parties
herein, nor otherwise interested in the outcome of
this action.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2023.

/s/ Shana W. Spencer

Shana Spencer, RPR, CRR