

**STAR Kids Managed Care Advisory Committee  
Meeting #34 • Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 9, 2021,  
9:30 a.m. – 1:06 p.m.**

**TEAMS Live Events Virtual Meeting**

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome, introductions, and opening remarks**

Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, called the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the STAR Kids Managed Care Advisory Committee to order at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Tucker welcomed new committee members Belinda West and Iris Gutierrez.

Mr. Eric Owens, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), addressed logistical issues, conducted member roll call and ask each member to introduce themselves and announced the presence of a quorum.

Ms. Tucker, Chair, welcomed committee members and provided opening remarks. She introduced Ms. Veronica G. Neville, Manager, HHSC and Ms. Heather Kuhlman, STAR Kids Specialist, HHSC, and recognized Angela Trahan as an outgoing member and thanked her for her service. Ms., Tucker, Chair, also announced her transitioning off as Committee Chair. Members, presenters, and staff thanked her for her service. Table 1 notes committee members' attendance at the meeting.

**Table 1:** STAR Kids Managed Care Advisory Committee member attendance at the June 9, 2021 meeting

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Dr. Berhane, Rahel	X		Dr. Ostermaier, Kathryn MD	X	
Mr. Josh Britten	X		Mr. Pereida, Jose		X
Ms. Calleros, Rosalba	X		Mr. Smith, Blake	X	
Ms. Carlton, Catherine	X		Ms. Trahan, Angela	X	
Ms. Carriker, Terri	X		Ms. Tucker, Elizabeth	X	
Ms. Gutierrez, Iris	X		Ms. Shawnett Viani	X	
Ms. Hopkins, Tara	X		Belinda West	X	
Ms. Alice Martinez	X		Ms. Beanca Williams	X	
Dr. Medellin, Glen, MD	X				
Mr. Mosquera, Ricardo	X				

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

**Agenda Item 2: Consideration of March 3, 2021 meeting minutes**

Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, referenced the drafts of the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes and asked members if there were any changes. Ms. Tucker requested a motion to approve the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes.

**Motion:**

Mr. Blake Smith made a motion to approve the March 3, 2021 minutes as presented. Dr. Glen Medellin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote with sixteen approvals, no disapprovals, and no abstentions.

### **Agenda Item 3: COVID-19 update**

Ms. Michelle Erwin, Deputy Associate Commissioner for Policy and Program, HHSC, and Dr. Ryan Van Ramshorst, Chief Medical Director, Office of the Medical Director, HHSC, provided a COVID-19 update impacting the STAR Kids program. Highlights of update and committee member discussion included:

- Dr. Ryan Van Ramshorst shared epidemiology numbers, which can be found in detail on the Texas insight COVID updates provided twice a week.
- Ms. Michelle Erwin commented on the flexibilities that have been implemented. She provided an update related to current policy on Medicaid and CHIP. She stated that HHSC is continuously looking at flexibilities that have been put in place that may be appropriate to end sooner than later.
- Ms. Erwin stated that supporting COVID-19 have been extended through June 30th, 2021.
- Ms. Erwin stated that HHSC is looking at ending one flexibility due to feedback received from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services regarding the allowability to have that flexibility in place. She stated that July 1<sup>st</sup> members in Manage Care will be required to revert and follow to Federally required timeframes for requesting continuation of benefits.
- Ms. Erwin provided updates on work the team has been doing with MCOs and families transitioning during the public health emergency. Families First

### **Members Discussed**

- Committee member asked Ms. Erwin if there was a higher number than number of people that lost eligibility for the waiver. Ms. Erwin stated that she would have to get back with her with that answer.
- Ms. Catherine Carlton asked a question regarding the flexibilities that are ending and if that seems to be a trend for the other HHSC flexibilities that are ending, and should we anticipate telehealth and other flexibilities to have that same end date. Ms. Erwin responded no and that she would have mentioned them.
- Ms. Belinda West asked when we have the 30-day notice to end something such as the telehealth flexibility is there a way to get more than a thirty-day notice. Ms. Erwin responded that information has been put out but would take her question into account and look to the following month or 30 days. Ms. West stated that 45 days would be best because of the reorganizations that has to happen for families and their schedules.
- Ms. Erwin agreed and will take that information for the team to consider.
- Ms. Rosalba Calleros stated that she would like to get some information or guidance for families that are getting notifications from HHSC because the emergency is coming to an end. Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, asked Ms. Calleros for a sample of the notifications the families are getting.

#### **Agenda Item 4: STAR Kids/Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) legislative updates**

Ms. Michelle Erwin, Deputy Associate Commissioner for Policy and Program, HHSC, briefed the committee on STAR Kids/MDCP legislative updates, including but not limited to relevant provisions in SB 1207, Rider 32 and HB 4533 and referenced a PowerPoint titled "STAR Kids Advisory Committee Legislative Update". Highlights of update, topics covered, and committee member discussion included:

#### **87th Legislative Update**

- Telehealth / Telemedicine
- Eligibility
- New Benefits / Providers
- Operations
- MCO Contracts
- Continuity of Care

#### **86th Legislative Update**

- HB 4533 – ACO/alternative model:
- Publish RFI
- Submit report December 2022
- COB/Specialty Provider:
- Specialty Provider
- Evaluate impact of SB 1648, 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature
- Adopt rules
- Update contract
- Coordination of Benefits Policy
- Question sent to CMS
- Finalize addressing committee and MCO feedback
- SK-SAI Optimization
- Address MCO feedback
- Provide TMHP final requirements
- TMHP and MCOs begin system changes
- Trading partner testing

#### **Members Discussed**

- Ms. Terri Carriker wanted clarification on the agenda topic being labeled as MDCP program updates and that SB 1207 and SB 1648 apply to all children medically complex children in the Medicaid system and not just those in the MDCP program waiver
- Ms. Michelle Erwin stated that during the legislative process there were drafts of the bill that did clarify complex medical conditions. As the agency is looking to implement SB 1648, we will be following what will finally pass from the legislature.
- Dr Glen Medellin stated that he wanted to see the process that HHSC is going to use to make sure the stakeholders are at the table for figuring out if telehealth is the best for this population. Ms. Erwin responded that she does not know what the stakeholder process will look like but will take note and consider stakeholder input.

- Ms. Tucker, Chair, stated that we could also put something together with Dr. Berhane’s sub-committee. Dr Berhane agreed and stated there is enough information that can be pulled together.
- Ms. Carriker asked if HHSC has a vision of how the medication management program might be utilized. Ms. Erwin stated that we are in the early stages of implementation. It’s likely going to be the vendor drug management team who has the most knowledge but are not present today.
- Ms. Erwin asked the committee to share what kinds of things they would like for her to share updates on from the recent legislation.

### **Agenda Item 5: Medically Fragile Program Update**

Dr. Lisa Glen, Senior Associate Medical Director, Medicaid-CHIP Provided an update on the waiver amendment (HB 4533, 86<sup>th</sup>) pertaining to medically fragile individuals including young adults aging out of SK who exceed the SP HCBS cost cap, as well as background on what the process is now and how the process will change and referenced a handout titled “Medically Fragile Policy)”. Highlights of the presentation and committee member discussion included:

- Population
- Cost Caps
- Current Process
- 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature
- HB 4533, Section 32:
- 1115 Amendment

### **Members Discussed**

- Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, commented the fact that this is exciting .This topic wasn’t on this advisory committees radar screen previously .She stated it is a wonderful option and its great that HHSC is going to start getting match rate for serving individuals who need to exceed the cost cap as opposed to just getting general revenue.
- Ms. Rosalba Calleros commented that she had been asked if supporting employment counts towards the 2.02% of nursing facility rates and if the individual could quit working to fix the cost. Dr. Lisa Glen stated that she will find out the answer to that question. She stated these services, however, must be relevant to the individual’s health and safety.

## **Agenda Item 6: Presentation and discussion of the 2020 External Quality Review of Medicaid/CHIP Managed Care Summary of Activities.**

Frank Genco and HHSC, provided the update and referenced a PowerPoint titled "STAR Kids SOA". Highlights of the update, topics covered, and committee member discussion included:

- Background Information
- Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs)
- Network Adequacy
- Quality Care of Surveys
- Cancellation of additional performance measures
- HHSC Follow up to Recommendations/Key Findings
- Current Quality Initiatives with the EQRO
- HHS Follow up to Recommendations/Key Findings

### **Members Discussed:**

- Ms. Soila Villarreal made comments in regarding who would be included in partaking in the survey. She stated that the survey would be stratified by the managed care organization, but it would include caregivers whose children are in MDCP and more expansive to members who have served through class and the S waiver and who are SSI eligible.
- Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, commented on the survey by saying that if you have the majority MDCP Class and the YES waiver and those who are SSI eligible, that's almost all of STAR Kids minus the SSI related and children in HCS end up on the disabilities. So, it looks like all of STAR Kids? Mr. Frank Genco responded by saying yes. Ms. Villarreal stated that HHSC has been working on this and making sure they have a representative sample for the survey.
- Ms. Tucker commented to Mr. Genco that the committee would like a presentation on grading and assessment measures when it is finished.
- Ms. Catherine Carlton thanked Mr. Genco for the information asked questions and expressed concerns regarding the surveys. She asked if MCOs do provider surveys, and are they shared with HHSC and is there any feedback. Mr. Genco responded that he wasn't aware if the MCOs do providers surveys, this survey would not be shared in quality assurance. They may be shared in another part of Medicaid/CHIP. He stated that HHSC is open to feedback about things that maybe should have been looked at.

Ms. Salvato also stated that if committee could provide questions that she would provide feedback.

### **Agenda Item 7: STAR Kids MCAC subcommittee updates**

- a. Health Homes & Defining Value for the STAR Kids Population - Dr. Rahel Berhane, Ascension Medical Group, provided the update. Highlights of update and committee member discussion included:
  - Working in collaboration with Blue cross Blue Shield to launch a PILOT program to do integrated visits.
  - Working with parents to do outcome measures.
  - Working with HHSC looking in preparation for RFI for the ACE Kids ACT
  
- b. STAR Kids SAI & Medical Necessity/IDD Carve In (SK SAI) - Ms. Catherine Carlton, MHMR of Tarrant County, provided the update. Highlights of update and committee member discussion included:
  - HHSC made many changes incorporating suggested feedback from committee.
  - Dry Run event moving forward.
  - Continued monitored testing of new tools.
  - ID Waivers Telehealth.
  - Coordination of benefits.
  - Focused on community first choice and PCS
  - YES waiver
  
- c. Transition from STAR Kids to STAR+PLUS - Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, provided the update. Highlights of update and committee member discussion included:
  - Update on conversations with the National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health regarding a Value-Based Payment pilot. Recommended that HHSC take advantage of participating in a technical assistance project with the National Alliance to advance adolescent health care.
  - Health care transition pay for quality bonus pool and structural outcome measures.
  - STAR Kids Capps Survey that include healthcare transition questions
  - Electronic medical records and Information technology changes that could be done to better support pediatric to adult transitional care.
  - Healthcare transition contract language and quality and structural care measures.
  - Received support from National Alliance to look at some ongoing training webinar provided on a regular basis to STAR Kids training specialists.

### **Agenda Item 8: Public Comment**

Mr. Eric Owens, ACCO Facilitator, HHSC, read the public comment announcement and opened the meeting to public comment. Highlights of public comment were as follows:

**Hannah Mehta, Parent and Protect Texas Fragile Kids representative,** asked if HHSC has any responses or feedback related to the ending of Covid flexibilities. Does HHSC have any direction or information? Families are receiving notices that their Medicaid is ending, and, in many cases, families are receiving notices that the child is part of the children's Medicaid program rather than the medical eligibility program which has been a matter of concern for families. She asked if it would be possible for a future update of the status on

implementation of SB 96 from the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative session. It's been a while since we had an update. Ms. Mehta asked about the Coordination of benefits program. She stated a lot of families over the last year or so being told by their MCO representatives that if they have a service or piece of equipment or something prescribed by their Physician as medically necessary for their child, but have been denied coverage by their primary commercial provider, that item or service will not be covered by the secondary Medicaid which doesn't make sense. She asked if the committee has any suggestions on this topic. She thanked those who worked on the EQRO website. Ms. Mehta mentioned the Medical Transportation program is in chaos since the transition to MCO. There is no centralized source or way to access information as to what those MCOs are doing.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Review of Action Items and agenda items for future meeting**

Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, stated that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Action items and agenda topics included:

- Ms. Tucker, Chair, stated that she would like for Ms. Erwin to get with Ms. Terri Carriker and Ms. Shawnette Viani to review discussions or non-emergency transportation and maybe include Ms. Hanna Mehta in that conversation.
- Ms. Tucker, Chair wanted Ms. Erwin to please find out what's going on with Medicaid termination letters that have been received by people and if they could share them with HHSC.
- Ms. Tucker, Chair, would also like Ms. Tucker to look into the Coordination of benefits issues to review information and updates as needed.
- Ms. Erwin responded to Ms. Tucker by suggesting those people that have received these notices should be using the HHSC complaint process in order to have that complaint data captured for reference.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Adjourn and thank you**

Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Chair, thanked committee members, staff, and public members for joining today's meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Ms. Tucker at 1:06 pm.

Below is the link to the archived video of the June 9, 2021 STAR Kids Managed Care Advisory Committee (SKMCAC) that will be available for viewing approx. two years from date meeting was posted on website and based on the HHSC records retention schedule.

[STAR Kids Managed Care Advisory Committee](#)