



MRT Work Group Meeting Summary

WORK GROUP NAME: Basic Benefit Review

MEETING DATE, TIME, LOCATION: August 31, 2011 – 10:30-3:00 (via Webinar due to flooding issues)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Co-chair – Frank Branchini, President and CEO, Emblem Health
Co-chair – Nirav Shah, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health

Foster Gesten, MD; Greg Allen; Scott Braitwaite, MD, MMSc; Arnold Saperstein, MD; Peter Newell; Eliot Lazar, MD, MBA; Ira Lamster, DDS, MMSc; Joseph Stankaitis, MD, MPH; Elisabeth Benjamin; Eugene Heslin, MD; Mark Gibson; Doug DeLong, MD, FACP; Tony Greco, MD; Henry Chung, MD; Kathy Shure; David Lehmann, MD; and Jonathan Bick

SUMMARY OF KEY MEETING CONTENT:

The work group began with brief introductions.

Dr. Shah provided an overview of the group's mission, vision, guiding principles and charge. The group was charged to help design an evidence informed benefit package which is patient-centered. The output which is expected from the group is a short, written report to the MRT which includes specific recommendations for benefit redesign. All suggestions should have potential for cost-savings – if savings are not possible, suggestions must be budget neutral.

There was discussion around the avoidance of matters which are already being addressed by other MRT work groups. DOH staff provided a review of the existing Medicaid program and the covered services. Mandated and optional services, co-payments, federal requirements, primary care enhancements, enacted MRT reforms, population specific benefits and waiver services were addressed.

An overview of the way in which new technology is currently evaluated to determine whether or not it will be covered by NYS Medicaid was provided. The processes followed by other states were also discussed.

There was a review of potential areas for improvement and cost-savings.

Additionally, the group was asked to establish a process to do on-going assessment of benefits against evidence going forward.

NEXT STEPS/PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next steps for the group are to:

- draft a list of guiding principles to be followed in the benefit design process
- prepare and share data to be reviewed at the next meeting
- prepare presentations for the next meeting regarding evidence and research methods

NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, LOCATION:

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

NYS Dept. of Health Offices, 90 Church St., 4th floor, Manhattan