

New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange Work Group Minutes

Work Group	Essential Health Benefits	Date	09/18/2012
Facilitator	Rick Wallace	Time	9:00 a.m. MT
Location	Conference Call/ In-Person	Scribe	Cicero Group

Agenda Item
 Discussion Item
 Conclusion
 Action Item

Attendees			
No.	Name	No.	Name
1.	Rick Wallace (<i>Team Lead</i>)	6.	Judy Gerth
2.	Dan Case (<i>Cicero Group</i>)	7.	Charlotte Roybal
3.	Joyce Powers	8.	Anne Sapon
4.	Heather Rising	9.	Kathryn Toone (<i>Leavitt Partners</i>)
5.	Debbie Armstrong	10.	Jonni Pool (<i>Human Services Department</i>)

Agenda Item 1: EHB Benefits Review

Name: Debbie Armstrong

DISCUSSION ITEM 1	Habilitation Services
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Debbie Armstrong initiated the Work Group meeting by passing around a document on habilitation services. She expressed a desire for further discussion and understanding of habilitation services among the members before finalizing their decision. This included discussion of definitions, category importance, services, and benefits.

The Work Group indicated that most Essential Health Benefits (EHB) plans cover rehabilitative services, but do not mention habilitation. Debbie Armstrong stated that coverage of habilitation services is a PPACA requirement. The Work Group discussed several habilitation services as follows:

Mental Health and Substance Abuse:

Debbie Armstrong provided the Work Group with an overview of federal and PPACA habilitation requirements. She argued that habilitation services should not be given dollar or visit limits. Ms. Armstrong also explained that the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan links mental health parity to rehab services (i.e., dollar and visit limits).

Upon further discussion, the Work Group noted that the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan includes numerous limits, which coincide with the affordability many members seek. However, the plan's limits are believed to be too strict. As a result, the Work Group sided with the Presbyterian plan (followed by Loveless) for mental health and substance abuse benefits.

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DISCUSSION ITEM 2	EHB Plan Price
<p>The Work Group noted that the more benefits and services added, the more expensive the EHB plan will be (referring to the Presbyterian plan). While some members agreed, several argued that sufficient utilization of habilitation services would prevent long-term health issues and thus control costs.</p>	
DISCUSSION ITEM 3	Additional EHB Services for Consideration
<p>Joyce Powers stated that her initial EHB recommendation would be Presbyterian; however, the following should be considered as additional plan add-ons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of primary care providers should be changed to include not only physicians, but also nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives. • Coverage for at-home births 	

Agenda Item 2: Final EHB Recommendation

Name: Rick Wallace

DISCUSSION ITEM 1	Work Group EHB Vote
<p>Rick Wallace sought confirmation from members that the Presbyterian plan is the Work Group's final EHB recommendation. All members of the Work Group agreed that the EHB plan should be Presbyterian.</p>	

Agenda Item 3: Additional EHB Recommendations

Name: Rick Wallace

DISCUSSION ITEM 1	EHB Supplement Recommendations
<p>The Work Group began discussing additional recommendations for the chosen EHB plan. Judy Gerth first noted that adding additional benefits would likely increase plan cost and noted that she has often seen people who have benefits they pay for but do not use. The following bullet points outline members' recommendations regarding EHB supplements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt CHIP to cover pediatric benefits in the EHB plan • Adopt CHIP plan for pediatric vision coverage in the EHB plan • Adopt Medicaid's definition of habilitation services (parity with rehabilitation services) 	