

HEALTHY AND WELL KIDS IN IOWA (*hawk-i*)
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 27, 2003

BOARD MEMBERS:

Eldon Huston, Chair
Terri Vaughan, Vice-Chair
Ted Stilwill (absent)
Julie McMahon (for Public Health)
Susan Salter
Wanda Wyatt-Hardwick
Jim Yeast (absent)

LEGISLATIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

Senator Kenneth Veenstra (absent)
Senator Amanda Ragan (absent)
Representative Brad Hansen (absent)
Representative Jane Greimann (absent)

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES:

Anita Smith
Anna Ruggle
Shellie Goldman

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Marne Woods

GUESTS:

Barbara Fox-Goldizen
Beth Jones
Sarah Taylor
Mary O'Brien
Karen Brown
Lisa Huff
Carrie Wordling
Denise Hill
Jim Donoghue
Deb Kazmerzak

AFFILIATION

MAXIMUS
Dept. of Public Health - Covering Kids & Families
Dept. of Public Health - Covering Kids & Families
Visiting Nurse Services
Center for Healthy Communities
Center for Healthy Communities
Des Moines Public Schools *hawk-i* Outreach
Iowa Medical Society
Broadlawns
Outlooks

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (*hawk-i*) Board met on Monday, January 27, 2003, in the Oak Room, Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 E. River Drive, Des Moines, Iowa. Eldon Huston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL:

Ms. Smith took the roll call, a quorum was not present.

Mr. Huston informed the guests that there would be an opportunity for public comment later in the agenda. Anyone wishing to address the Board should notify Mr. Huston.

REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, & OTHER STATE NEWS:

Ms. Smith reported on two unfinished pieces of business from the December 16, 2002, meeting.

- The Board had requested a list of the schools that participated in the Free and Reduced Meal Programs. The information for both 2001 and 2002 was included in the Board packet.
- Representative Greimann has requested additional information about the geographic access rule that the Legislative Rules Review Committee voted to refer to the Legislature for review. Mr. Huston asked that the information be furnished to each of the Board members.

Anna Ruggle reviewed Wellmark's response to the questions the Board raised about Wellmark's generic drug plan. Mr. Huston asked if this clarification from Wellmark is what the Department understood when approval was given to the generic plan. Ms. Smith said that the Iowa Medical Society had some discussions with Wellmark and it was the Society's understanding that brand name drugs would be covered if there were no generic equivalent. Ms. Smith said staff checked the contract to make sure this was not conflicting. It is not addressed in the contract. Mr. Huston asked if the Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC) had any comments. Ms. Ruggle responded that Dr. Carlyle wanted the CAC to review the structure of the benefits and they have not yet done so. However, Dr. Carlyle was a member of the professional group that worked with Wellmark on the generic drug plan. Mr. Huston asked that the CAC make a recommendation before the Wellmark contract comes up for renewal in July.

The Board was given comparison data on Wellmark's *hawk-i* drug usage from July 2001 through November 2002. The data indicates there was a 15% increase in generic drug use in at period. The ingredient cost increased 14%, and there was a 19% decrease in the number of prescriptions filled. Even though generic usage is up, it has not increased enough to meet Wellmark's goal of 90% generic usage. Ms. Smith noted that this will be the first year that utilization encounter data will be available to provide to the actuaries to help them determine the rate increase.

Ms. Smith reviewed the correspondence:

- December 23, 2002, letter from Director Rasmussen to Don Cooper, Interim Director of the Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance. The Des Moines Register had suggested the Department use income tax information to assist in outreach efforts. DHS's communications director had made some inquiries and it was his understanding that Revenue and Finance had done something in the past. Mr. Cooper responded on December 31, 2002, that confidentiality statutes prohibit them from releasing tax return data other than for tax administration purposes. Ms. Smith said she did not know if something could be negotiated with the Department of Revenue and Finance or not. Staff will continue to investigate to see if it is a possibility.

Julie McMahon arrived at the meeting at this time.

- Des Moines Register, January 11, 2003. An article about the new lobbyist for the Catholic church, Sara Eide, indicates that her first priority when the legislature convenes is to expand the state's health insurance program for poor children. She specifically discussed expanding **hawk-i** to cover pregnant women. Ms. Smith said that this is the policy option that is now available to states after President Bush expanded the SCHIP program to cover unborn children. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has requested cost estimates and staff is finalizing those estimates. Ms. Smith said it is not the Department's recommendation to expand **hawk-i** to cover pregnant women, but would try to cover them under an existing Medicaid program using Title 21 funds. Since Medicaid already has a program in place for pregnant women, a separate program for **hawk-i** would be more administratively cumbersome. Ms. Smith pointed out an error in the article that quoted Ms. Eide as saying **hawk-i** receives a 10 to 1 match from the federal government. Ms. Smith said that the Department is responding to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to make sure they understand that the only women who will attain coverage under this provision are immigrant women. Either those currently in the country as legal residents who are barred from participation in federal means-tested programs for 5 years, or undocumented alien women. Otherwise, pregnant women are already covered under Medicaid.
- Des Moines Register, December 29, 2002, "**hawk-i**: A Success Story for Kids. Ms. Smith said that overall this was a very positive article about **hawk-i**. However, the article did include a statement that the program was "costly for taxpayers". Ms. Smith said the Register might believe this because so many children have been identified as Medicaid eligible through **hawk-i** and the Medicaid roles continue to climb.

The Board was also given a number of articles from various states, all with similar themes. While the number of uninsured children has fallen dramatically (which is being credited to SCHIP programs), just about every state is facing potential cuts in Medicaid and SCHIP programs due to budget shortfalls. Hundreds of thousands of low-income people stand to lose health care coverage as governors attempt to address budget shortfalls. In a recent survey of 11 states, if all proposed cuts were enacted, over 1 million individuals would become uninsured.

Also referenced was an article about a study conducted by the State of California. The study specifically looked at school performance. Their data shows a 68% improvement of paying attention in class and keeping up with school activities once kids began receiving health care coverage. Ms. Smith said that Charlotte Burt recently shared a report with her that ties school performance to having health insurance. Ms. Smith said she believes school administrators need to be made aware of these studies. They will be valuable in encouraging schools to participate with **hawk-i** outreach.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**Budget:**

Ms. Smith reported that to year-to-date expenditures total \$4,825,899. Interest earned from the *hawk-i* trust fund is \$57,648.

Enrollment & Statistics:

CHIP enrollment has been very static with only slight growth. However, Medicaid continues to grow, with 4,500 children added in the last six months. Current CHIP enrollment is 26,487. Ms. Smith reported the growth between July 2001 and July 2002, was 4,814, compared to 2,876 for the period between December 2001 and December 2002. Ms. Smith told the Board she believes that this is attributed to kids moving out of the higher income levels and going to Medicaid. It also is probably a reflection of not having *hawk-i* outreach activities for the recent six-month period.

The quarterly demographic data remains unchanged: income, gender, and ethnicity trend consistently. Equal numbers of kids are enrolled above and below 150% of poverty. The data does show a decline in the number of kids applying for *hawk-i* that are referred to Medicaid.

Wanda Wyatt-Hardwick arrived at the meeting at this time. Mr. Huston announced a quorum is now present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2002, MEETING:

Susan Salter made a motion to approve the December 16, 2002, meeting minutes as written. Wanda Wyatt-Hardwick seconded the motion. Unanimous approval was made by Wanda Wyatt-Hardwick, Julie McMahon, Susan Salter, Terri Vaughan, and Eldon Huston.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (continued):**Application Update:**

Ms. Smith reported that the new *hawk-i* application has been translated into Spanish and sent to three individuals for their comments. Staff is currently reviewing those comments and making the necessary changes, most of which are grammatical. The goal for the release of the new application is April 1, 2003, to coincide with the new income guidelines.

OIG Audit Update:

As reported in December, the Office of Inspector General is conducting an audit on Iowa's CHIP program. Ms. Smith said that thus far it has been frustrating. The auditors have very limited knowledge of Medicaid and CHIP so staff is spending a lot of time educating and explaining why certain processes were followed.

Terri Vaughan had to leave the meeting, so the agenda was modified to allow for Board action on the following item.

QUALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Ms. Smith said that when the Quality Committee was created, it was separate from the Clinical Advisory Committee. The consensus now is that the two Committees should be merged into one committee to look at both clinical and quality issues.

Terry Vaughan made a motion to combine the Clinical Advisory Committee and the Quality Committee into one committee. Julie McMahon seconded the motion. Unanimous approval was made by Wanda Wyatt-Hardwick, Julie McMahon, Susan Salter, Terri Vaughan, and Eldon Huston.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (continued):

OIG Audit Update (continued):

Ms. Smith said it is her understanding the OIG was to perform a brief review, and then determine whether a full review is warranted. Ms. Smith said that based on some of the information the auditors have requested, she believes a full audit will be done.

Mr. Huston said he attended the pre-audit conference and received the impression that Iowa was selected for audit due to some duplications early in the program that resulted in dual coverage. Ms. Smith explained how that happened and noted that ***hawk-i*** will be the first SCHIP program to be audited.

Legislative Update:

Ms. Smith reported that she was contacted by Senator Grassley's office on January 24th. Efforts had been made to attach SCHIP funding provisions to the omnibus appropriations bill, however, it was determined the provisions were too costly for the bill and, if included, would probably be stripped. Senators Grassley, Snowe, Nichols, and others have a handshake agreement that Senator Grassley will bring it up in the Finance Committee once the budget is completed, probably in April. Therefore, a colloquy took place on the Senate floor on January 23, 2003, and was submitted in the Congressional Record as a good faith show of their intent. The language would retroactively restore the funds that have reverted to the U.S. Treasury (FFY 1998 - 2001), and it appears there may be some language relative to making policies between SCHIP and Medicaid consistent.

Ms. Smith also reported that the ***hawk-i*** technical bill that has failed to get through the legislative process the past several years has been introduced as Senate File 26 (by Ragan); a companion to House File 49 (by Greimann and B. Hansen). Senate File 26 includes the benefit enhancements with the exception of the nutritional supplement coverage. Ms. Smith said she understood that not all the recommended benefits were

included because they were too costly. The nutritional supplements were the least expensive of the enhancements.

QUALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE (continued):

The Third Evaluation Report on *hawk-i*'s Impact on Access and Health Status has been released by the University of Iowa Public Policy Center. Ms. Smith said that this year the Enrollee Comments report was improved by sorting the comments by subject matter.

Mr. Huston wanted to know if any type of press release had been done. In the past the University and the Department have joined in making a press release. Ms. Smith indicated that once the Public Policy Center has added the reports to their website the Department will notify interested parties that the reports can be reviewed or downloaded from the website.

Shellie Goldman reported that the Clinical Advisory Committee met on January 14, 2003. Statutorily the *hawk-i* program is required to have a Clinical Advisory Committee and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Committee. The Quality Committee was established on the recommendation of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). At the time the Quality Committee was established it was determined that the CAC was too large to incorporate quality issues into their meetings, so a separate committee was established. Since that time, CAC member participation has lessened, and the state has fewer resources to devote to two separate committees. The Committee felt that due to the time commitment necessary from the members, that the two committees should be combined.

Dr. Alexander who chaired the Clinical Advisory Committee has moved out of state. Dr. Julie Thomas (Chair of the Quality Committee) and Linda Ruble (Co-Chair) were nominated and elected unanimously to fill those roles on the CAC.

Ms. Goldman said that the contract *hawk-i* has with the Public Policy Center includes a special research topic. The CAC chose ADHD for 2003. Because there are no HEDIS guidelines for this measurement, the Committee will need to develop specific guidelines and direct the University on what those guidelines are. A small group will meet to develop the guidelines (Dr. Scott Shafer, Kermit Dahlen, Chris Atchison, Dr. Thomas and Linda Ruble). There was also discussion whether ADHD should be the focus for the chart review conducted by Iowa Foundation for Medical Care (IFMC). The Department contracts with IFMC to do a chart review of each health plan once a year. The Committee felt that because it is so difficult to pull together the data needed, it was decided that it would be better to do well child visits for the clinical focus this year and add a question to find out if ADHD was noted in the patient records.

Mr. Huston asked if there was any indication the number of *hawk-i* children diagnosed with ADHD. Ms. Goldman said that Jean Willard of the Public Policy Center has reviewed some of the encounter data, medications, and diagnosis of ADHD. Ages 6 and under, there are not many children. The 6 to 14-year old age group jumped to 8%, which is in-line with some of the reports and surveys Dr. Damiano has conducted.

GRASSROOTS OUTREACH UPDATE:

Jane Borst provided the following update:

Staffing: Angie Doyle Scar has accepted the grassroots outreach coordinator position and will begin fulltime on February 5th. Linda Lantz and Beth Jones will assist with the initial orientation. Ms. Scar previously worked for the State Public Policy Group in Des Moines and is experienced in grassroots and "grass-tops" initiatives. Ms. Borst said she believes Ms. Scar will bring stability and consistency to the program.

Local Outreach Activities: Quarterly outreach reports were due January 15, 2003. (The quarter reflects only November and December activities due to the timing of the contract). Over half of the reports reflect significant contacts. Three agencies in southeast Iowa (Washington County Public Health, Hawkeye Community Action Program, and Johnson County Health Department) report aggressive entrees into work with faith-based communities and developing relationships with new stakeholders. Three agencies in northwest Iowa report that they are struggling a little due to delays in getting staff on board.

Training: Local outreach coordinators met with the Covering Kids and Families Outreach Task force via the ICN on January 9th. Ms. Borst said she was very pleased with the leadership that came from Polk County Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition. Lisa Huff chaired the meeting and the agenda included a question and answer segment. The focus, selected from survey responses, was working relationships with local income maintenance workers. Anita Smith presented program updates and Mike Baldwin (DHS) did a very thorough presentation of how to get "off on the right foot" and integrate activities with the goals of the income maintenance workers. Diane Ellis, Marion County, also provided her perspective. The next meeting is March 26, 2003, in Ames.

COVERING KIDS UPDATE:

Sonni Vierling announced that Covering Kids & Families will be sponsoring a workshop for childcare consultants via the ICN on February 20th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The workshop is a spin-off of the workshop that has been presented to school nurses the past two years. A **hawk-i** handbook is being prepared and the workshop will discuss what role childcare providers can play in promoting **hawk-i**. Ms. Smith will do a presentation on "**hawk-i** basics". **hawk-i** outreach coordinators have been asked to be monitors at the ICN sites to help establish relationships with the child health coordinators. The workshop is designed to:

- educate the consultants on developing an understanding of the challenges faced by families with uninsured children.
- identify state and local resources to assist providers in helping families access **hawk-i**.
- increase knowledge about available public health insurance programs such as Medicaid, Maternal/Child Health Centers, and other safety net programs.
- identify materials to use with non-English speaking families.

Ms. Vierling said that over the next four years the workshop will be tailored specifically for different groups.

Ms. Vierling also reported that Covering Kids and Families will be partnering with the State Empowerment Board a little more closely than they have in the past. In the past Covering Kids has submitted articles about *hawk-i* to the Empowerment newsletter. The Empowerment Board is sending the grassroots coordinator list to all of their local empowerment boards and in turn have provided the empowerment contacts to IDPH. The Empowerment Board also asked Covering Kids & Families to prepare a *hawk-i* packet to be used in the communities. The packet will offer information such as what is health insurance, what are the benefits of health insurance, and include various *hawk-i* outreach materials.

Ms. Vierling reported that she has received several requests for development of radio public service announcements.

Terri Vaughan returned to the meeting.

Ms. Vierling said that subcommittees have been formed to focus on each day of "Covering the Uninsured Week" (March 10 - 16, 2003). Organizers are hoping to have either Governor Vilsack or Lt. Governor Pederson kick things off on Monday, March 10, "Town Hall Meeting" day. Senator Harkin is also being invited. Ms. Vierling said that as the various events are finalized, she will keep the Board informed.

Outlooks has the contract with Families USA to find the families to showcase and the outreach coordinators have been asked to help identify families interesting in sharing their experiences for the event. Organizers are looking for:

- a working family recently unemployed and as a result uninsured.
- a working family without employer-based coverage who cannot afford private market options.
- an individual who cannot afford the premiums associated with employer-based coverage.
- a self-employed individual who is unable to purchase insurance for themselves or employees,
- an individual who has delayed medical treatment or accrued large medical bills because they are uninsured.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to present before the Board.

The Board's next meeting is Monday, February 17, 2003, at 12:30 in the Oak Room at the Des Moines Botanical Center.