

HEALTHY AND WELL KIDS IN IOWA (*hawk-i*)
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

July 8, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS:

Susan Salter, Chair*
Julie McMahon, Vice Chair (for Thomas Newton)*
Angela Burke Boston (for Susan Voss)*
Charlotte Burt (for Judy Jeffrey)*
Dr. Selden Spencer*
Kim Carson (absent)
John Ortega*

LEGISLATIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

Senator Amanda Ragan
Senator Dave Mulder (absent)
Representative Polly Granzow (absent)
Representative Mary Mascher (absent)

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES:

Anita Smith
Mike Baldwin

GUESTS:

Angie Doyle Scar
Lynn Tague*
Gina Livingston*

AFFILIATION:

Iowa Department of Public Health
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa
AmeriChoice

* *Participated via telephone conference call*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

The Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (*hawk-i*) Board met on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, at the Hoover State Office Building, 1305 E Walnut, Des Moines, Iowa. Susan Salter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. There was not a quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE AMENDMENTS:

Anita Smith discussed the proposed administrative rules amendments. The emergency adopted and filed rule is a result of the 2008 disasters in Iowa. To date, 78 counties have been declared Presidential disaster areas. The Governor has declared 86 counties as disaster areas. The Department of Human Services has been affected and resources have been redirected to all the areas of the state that were directly impacted. Some Central Office staff have been temporarily assigned to local offices to help issue emergency food assistance. The goal of these emergency rules is that negative actions will not be taken for people who were impacted by the flooding or tornados. People are in emergency housing, they may not be getting their mail, or they may not be in a

financial position to pay a premium. The emergency rules are designed not only to help the enrollees, but also to relieve staff of having to deal with reports and reviews. The *hawk-i* program is a little different because of the third party administrator that processes the renewal applications. However, about 40 percent of all *hawk-i* applications get referred to Medicaid. Determinations would be delayed because of the reassignment of Medicaid eligibility staff. The Department has been working with CMS to get waivers for Medicaid and *hawk-i* and CMS has given verbal approval to do this.

The emergency rule amendments address how frequently eligibility review will be made, the payment of premiums, and what happens if a premium is not paid. In the 5 counties that were most effected in June (Butler, Bremer, Black Hawk, Linn, and Johnson) the Department would not cancel *hawk-i* benefits for families who failed to pay their premium or renew coverage in June. If a review was due in June and families did not renew, the renewal date will now be June 2009. For July renewals it will be July 2009, and August renewals will be made in August 2009. Families who fail to pay a premium will not be cancelled. The assumption is that if they are already on the roles, there has been some type of eligibility determination and all efforts will be focused on new applicants and not on those already receiving assistance. The rules that address Medicaid will be before the Legislature's administrative rules review committee today.

Ms. Smith said that the policy changes before the Board under the Notice of Intended Action are a result of meetings with the new third party administrator, PSI. PSI's computer system, VITA, has a lot of new technology and capabilities that *hawk-i* has not had in the past such as being able to accept credit card payments and electronic funds transfers for premium payments. They have also shared ideas from other states. The rule amendments in the Notice of Intended Action reflect these discussions. These policies must be in place by July 13, 2008, in order for PSI to proceed with computer programming for the new requirements and meet the January 1, 2009, implementation date.

Charlotte Burt, Iowa Department of Education, joined the meeting at this time. A quorum is now present.

Mike Baldwin explained the rule amendments in the Notice of Intended Action.

The proposed amendments establish the first month for which a premium will be due based on the approval of an initial application as the third month following the month of the eligibility decision. Currently, families who are newly approved for *hawk-i* owe a premium beginning with the month immediately following the month in which the eligibility decision was made. When that decision is made late in a month, not only does the family owe a premium for the next month but also for the second month. For example, if an application is approved on June 27, the first month for which a premium is due is July. The July premium is due July 14, or ten working days following the date of the eligibility decision. However, under current rules, the family's ongoing premiums are due by the tenth day of the month before the month of coverage. So, the family's August premium is due July 10. Not only is it confusing to families to have the premium for August due before the premium for July, many families miss the fact that two premiums are due and only send in one. This often results in denial of the application

for failure to pay premiums. The proposed rule amendments will establish a more reasonable schedule of premium due dates for approvals based on initial applications.

John Ortega joined the meeting at this time.

Ms. Burke Boston had a question regarding the language in 86.8(3)"a"(1). Existing language indicated that if a family requests, the initial premium due date may be extended once for no more than calendar days. The proposed new language would make this language unnecessary. Mr. Baldwin agreed that the existing language should be struck as it was no longer necessary.

Selden Spencer made a motion to approve the Notice of Intended Action with the change referenced by Ms. Burke Boston. Julie McMahon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Susan Salter, aye; Julie McMahon, aye; Charlotte Burt, aye; Angela Burke Boston, aye; Dr. Selden Spencer, aye; and John Ortega, aye. The Notice of Intended action was approved unanimously.

The Board then considered the Emergency Adopted and Filed rule. These rules provide that premiums will be waived and failure to renew will be waived only in the five counties (Butler, Bremer, Black Hawk, Johnson and Linn) for the month of June, 2008. The policies for July and August 2008 will apply statewide. Senator Amanda Ragan questioned whether or not Floyd County should be included for the month of June as that county was also declared a Presidential disaster area. Ms. Smith said that she would verify whether or not Floyd County should be included before filing the amendments.

Angela Burke Boston made a motion to approve the emergency adopted and filed rules. Selden Spencer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Susan Salter, aye; Julie McMahon, aye; Charlotte Burt, aye; Angela Burke Boston, aye; Dr. Selden Spencer, aye; and John Ortega, aye. The emergency rules were approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Selden Spencer, seconded by Angela Burke Boston.

The next regular ***hawk-i*** Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. at the Des Moines Botanical Center, Levitt Room, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa.