Youth-in-Care Transition to Managed Care

On Friday, the Illinois Departments of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and Children and Family Services (DCFS) announced that youth in care of DCFS will transition on Sept. 1 to YouthCare, a Medicaid managed care plan administered by MeridianHealth.

According to a joint press release, YouthCare is designed to provide “unprecedented levels of care coordination to DCFS youth” by connecting families with providers and other healthcare resources. HFS reports that 89% of providers currently serving DCFS youth are in the YouthCare network, including 188 hospitals and 12 psychiatric hospitals. Although DCFS youth will be automatically enrolled in YouthCare as of Sept. 1, members will be allowed to see out-of-network providers through Feb. 28, 2021. DCFS youth were originally scheduled to transition to managed care on Nov. 1, 2019, but implementation has been delayed due to stakeholder feedback and concerns.

Additional information on YouthCare is available on HFS’ Illinois Child Welfare Medicaid Managed Care Reform Implementation Workgroup webpage.

COVID Funding for Hospitals Governed by Special District

The Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is reminding local units of government, including hospitals governed by a special district, that they can apply for reimbursement for COVID-19 related costs under the Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (or Local CURE) Support Program (Section 3-10 of Public Act 101-0636). Special districts can apply for CARES Act funding until Friday, July 17 at 4 p.m. This applies to all units of local government (except school districts) outside of Cook, Lake, Will, Kane, and DuPage counties.

According to DCEO, the Local CURE Program:

- Is federally funded from the Coronavirus Relief Fund using dollars allocated to Illinois through the CARES Act.
- Will reimburse units of local government for costs that:
  - are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19;
  - were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the unit of local government; and
  - were incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020 and ending Dec. 30, 2020.

Examples of costs eligible for reimbursement under the program:

- Medical expenses, including but not limited to: expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, costs of providing COVID-19 testing, and emergency medical response expenses;
- Public health expenses, including but not limited to: expenses for communication and enforcement by local governments of public health orders related to COVID-19;
- Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services were substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19;
- Expenses for actions taken to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures;
- Any other COVID-19 related expenses reasonably necessary for the unit of local government to respond to the public health emergency that satisfies the Local CURE Program eligibility criteria. Local governments must document how expenses are related to COVID-19.

For more information, click here. The application can be found here.

CDC COCA Call on MIS-C This Thursday
During this Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call on Thurs., July 16 at 1 p.m. CDT, clinicians will learn about clinical management of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19. Clinicians will share their experiences treating patients with MIS-C, present treatment details from published literature on patients with MIS-C, and provide an overview of the treatment guidelines published by the American College of Rheumatology.

Click here to join the webinar.
Or iPhone one-tap: +16692545252,1612204810# or +16468287666,1612204810#
Or Telephone: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666
Webinar ID: 161 220 4810

IONL to Hold COVID-19 Town Hall Webinar
The Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders (IONL) will hold a COVID-19 town hall webinar on Aug. 6 at 5 p.m. CDT to bring the nursing leaders across Illinois together to share stories and provide an outlet and collective respite. IONL says the webinar, “COVID-19 Stories from the Front Line: Caring for Our Patients and Clinicians,” will be an opportunity to convene as a group of nurses and dialogue through the events that we have been going through and find ways to support each other as clinicians. To register, click here.

State, National, Global COVID-19 Updates
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 883 new COVID-19 cases and six deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 154,799 in 102 counties, with a total of 7,193 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 30,012 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 2.9%. The state has now conducted more than 2 million tests. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity rate from July 6 to July 12 is 3%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 1,342 patients to 1,362 patients. Of that figure, 334 patients were in the ICU, with 136 patients on ventilators.

Today’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) figures show nearly 3.3 million confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., with 134,844 deaths.

Today’s WHO Coronavirus Disease Dashboard shows more than 12.7 million COVID-19 cases globally, with more than 572,000 deaths. The Region of the Americas (includes the U.S.) continues to lead the world with more than 6.6 million cases and more than 286,000 deaths.

Briefly Noted
On Friday, Governor J.B. Pritzker appointed to Joseph O’Connor to the State Board of Health. O’Connor previously served as Senior Public Service Administrator at the Illinois Dept. of Public Health. He additionally served as Associate and Registered Sanitarian, and Environmental Health Branch Coordinator at the Will County Health Department, Environmental Health Division.