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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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HEALTHCARE QUALITY PAYMENT AND POLICY

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Friday, June 5, 2020

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Arkansas Department of Human Services

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Conference Room 4290

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Seventh and Main Streets

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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9:00 a.m.

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IN RE: ACT 1266, Electing Chairman

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20 COURT REPORTER:

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DEBBYE PETRE, CCR

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Post Office Box 1027

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1027

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501-834-2352

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

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ON BEHALF OF ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

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HUMAN SERVICES, DMS:

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MS. ANNE LASOWSKI, EPISODE DESIGN MANAGER

MS. JANET MANN, DIRECTOR

5

MR. JAMES GALLAHER

MR. JACK TINER

6

MS. LISA TEAGUE

MS. STEPHANIE CROSS

7

MR. MAC GOLDEN

MS. ALEXANDRA ROUSE

8

9

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

10

DR. BRADLEY BIBB (Telephonically)

MR. REX JONES (Telephonically)

11

MR. STEVE HAMMOND (Telephonically)

MR. ERIC PIANALTO (Telephonically)

12

MS. TED HALL (Telephonically)

MR. SHANE SMITH (Not present)

13

MR. EDWARD HOLMAN (Telephonically)

MS. RACHEL BUNCH (Telephonically)

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MR. EDDIE ARNOLD (Not present)

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OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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EXHIBITS

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NO EXHIBITS

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Reporter's Certificate..... 23

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P R O C E E D I N G S
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FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2020
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MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Doctor Bibb, would you like to open the meeting?

DOCTOR BRADLEY BIBB: Yes. Thanks, Anne. So, you know, it's kind of -- this is obviously difficult, us not being there, and we haven't met in so long that it's -- I'm not even quite sure who all is on the committee anymore. Just for those of you who may be new, this committee was started by some legislation from Senator Irvin several years ago when Episodes of Care were being developed, really to have provider insight into what is being developed, and not only to get, you know, opinions, but also to help, you know, get the word out to the different provider groups. So, there are certain providers -- several provider groups that are supposed to be represented on the committee. A percentage of them are voting members. And so, I was on the

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1 committee initially and I was nominated by
2 the Medical Society, I'm the Chair of the
3 Arkansas Medical Society.

4 And then, so, pretty much, that's it.
5 You know, and we have reviewed changes over
6 the years to different episodes, and as
7 things have gone on, different things have
8 happened with Medicaid and they have kind of
9 stopped growing the episode program, and to
10 the point now that it looks like we are
11 shutting it down, its usefulness has seen
12 its time. So, I think my understanding is
13 that today we can discuss winding it down.
14 Part of the process is for us to approve
15 that.

16 And so, Anne, you can correct anything
17 I said wrong there.

18 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: You did a great
19 job. We were able to talk earlier -- in a
20 minute, here, to that. What I will do is
21 get a roll call of everybody present for our
22 court reporter. And everybody at this
23 meeting is being recorded. Yes. What is
24 the word for that? And we have a court
25 reporter recording everything. So, it's

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1 being recorded. And so, when you do speak,
2 speak first with your name, since we are
3 doing -- it's a little bit more difficult
4 since we can't be in person. So, please be
5 sure to speak your name first so our
6 recorder, Debbye, knows who is talking.

7 And I will do a roll call here of the
8 members just to make sure. Doctor Bibb?

9 DR. BRADLEY BIBB: Present.

10 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Present. Rex
11 Jones?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Present; right?
14 Rex, you are still on; right?

15 MR. REX JONES: Yes, Rex is present.
16 I'm sorry, I had it on mute.

17 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Doctor Shane Smith,
18 are you on?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Edward Holman?

21 MR. EDWARD HOLMAN: Here.

22 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Steven Hammond?

23 MR. STEVEN HAMMOND: Steven Hammond is
24 present.

25 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Eric Pianalto?

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1 MR. ERIC PIANALTO: Present.

2 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Ted Hall?

3 MR. TED HALL: Present.

4 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Rachel Bunch?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Eddie Arnold?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Rachel and Eddie,
9 in case you are on mute, I don't hear
10 anything. Janet Mann? We know Janet is
11 here. We heard her come on.

12 MS. JANET MANN: Present.

13 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Okay. And then,
14 Debbye, for your knowledge, for DHS, James
15 Gallaher.

16 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

17 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: James, you are on
18 mute, if you said "present".

19 DR. JAMES GALLAHER: Yes, ma'am, I'm
20 here.

21 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: My name is Anne
22 Lasowski. I should have opened with that, I
23 guess, for everybody. Stephanie?

24 MS. STEPHANIE CROSS: I'm present.

25 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Lisa?

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1 MS. LISA TEAGUE: Here.

2 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Lisa Teague. I
3 should say last names on this. Jack Tiner?

4 MR. JACK TINER: Here.

5 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Mac Golden?

6 MR. MAC GOLDEN: Here.

7 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Alexandra Rouse?

8 MR. ALEXANDRA ROUSE: Present.

9 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Okay. Are there
10 any others that I have not -- oh, Sandra
11 Raul. How do you spell your last name,
12 Sandra?

13 MS. ALEXANDRA ROUSE: It's Alexandra
14 Rouse.

15 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Oh.

16 MS. ALEXANDRA ROUSE: Whenever I came
17 on, I think you heard it as Sandra. You can
18 call me Alex, that's fine.

19 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: All right. Okay.
20 Alexandra Rouse. And I think Deb -- is
21 there anybody else on the line that I have
22 not mentioned that Debbye needs to record?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Okay. We will move
25 on. Thank you all for taking time out of

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1 your day for this. Doctor Bibb did an
2 excellent overview of what is going on with
3 episodes. And please remember, if you do
4 speak, to state your name first so we know
5 who is speaking, since we don't have visual
6 on this.

7 And what I'm going to do now is, I'm
8 going to turn the talk over to James
9 Gallaher, who is the team leader of Episodes
10 of Care. If anybody -- if you need me to
11 e-mail you real quick any of the
12 information, I can. Just let me know right
13 now. There is a website that's dedicated to
14 HQPPAC, which is the acronym for Healthcare
15 Quality Payment and Policy Committee. And
16 that's required by Act 1266 where we leave
17 everything posted for your knowledge and for
18 public knowledge.

19 But, James, do you want to add your
20 comments on this and discuss the rule?

21 DR. JAMES GALLAHER: Okay. Thank you,
22 Anne. Good morning, everyone. And I
23 appreciate everyone's participation this
24 morning. We are here today to present to
25 the committee, as required by statute, a

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1 proposed rule change affecting the Episodes
2 of Care program. And I thought I would
3 begin with just a little bit of history for
4 new committee members.

5 In 2012, Arkansas Medicaid, along with
6 several commercial insurance carriers,
7 launched an initiative to improve the way
8 providers were reimbursed for their service.
9 This initiative, the Arkansas Payment
10 Improvement Initiative, had three goals in
11 mind, which are often referred to in the
12 industry as the Triple Aim. First is to
13 improve the patient's healthcare experience;
14 second, to bring a new focus and awareness
15 to the quality of care being provided; and
16 third, to bring an awareness among all
17 providers to the cost of healthcare
18 services.

19 Two types of APMs, or alternative
20 payment models, were chosen by the
21 initiative, Episodes of Care and The Health
22 Home. While neither of these models were
23 new to the industry, what was
24 ground-breaking and received some national
25 attention in Arkansas was the multi-payor

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1 collaboration and program alignment between
2 the public and private sector. Both
3 programs, among all payors, have found a
4 measure of success. However, because of
5 various corporate reorganizations and the
6 adoption of other models, Arkansas Medicaid
7 has survived as the last payor in the
8 initiative, using Episodes of Care as a
9 payment model.

10 The rule change presented today will
11 sunset and ultimately retire the Arkansas
12 Medicaid Episodes of Care Financial
13 Incentive program. To summarize the changes
14 detailed in the packets of documents sent to
15 each committee member, it is proposed the
16 Arkansas Medicaid state plan be revised to
17 announce the gradual sunset of the program.
18 The rule change also updates several
19 sections of the Medicaid manual. Section
20 180 will be updated to announce the
21 conclusion of the program, Section 200 of
22 the manual, which refers to all Episodes of
23 Care, will be updated to reflect the gradual
24 conclusion of the program, and Sections 110
25 through 223, which refer to each individual

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1 episode, will be revised to reflect the
2 termination of each episode.

3 During 2021, only the reconciliation
4 report determinations will be published.
5 Reconciliation of the prior year's
6 performance allows for the inclusion of any
7 late filed claim, and gives the writers the
8 opportunity to report any unreported quality
9 measure which could improve their financial
10 incentives.

11 Again, briefly stated, the proposed
12 changes under consideration today sunsets
13 the Episodes of Care program as an
14 alternative payment model used by Medicaid.
15 I would like to add, Medicaid is not
16 abandoning the Episodes of Care model as a
17 tool for costs and quality care management.
18 We are in the process of transitioning the
19 financial Episodes of Care into
20 informational reports based on the episode
21 technology that has been developed over the
22 years. This transition will be complete and
23 the publication of these reports to all
24 providers will begin this summer.

25 I will be happy to answer any questions

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1 at this time.

2 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Does anyone have
3 any questions? If you do, please state your
4 name prior to it so Debbye can record it.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Any comments?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Okay. At this
9 point, what we do is that the advisory
10 opinion of the committee has to be voted on.
11 And the draft rule proposed that James
12 stated is to sunset the Episodes of Care.
13 And what it will do is remove all Episodes
14 of Care from the Medicaid manual and the
15 state plan, and he laid out the sections for
16 you. The way we usually word it is, the
17 general recommendation from the Healthcare
18 Quality Payment and Policy Committee is to
19 accept the policy draft rule as presented.

20 MR. JAMES GALLAHER: Yes.

21 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: So, if it's all
22 right with everybody, I will take a vote on
23 that.

24 MR. TED HALL: Hey, Anne, this is Ted
25 Hall. I just want to ask a question. Has

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1 there been any groups or any particular
2 groups that would be opposed to this, or any
3 down-side that I don't know about? I mean,
4 it sounds okay. But are we doing this for
5 better service for the patient or are we --
6 I know the three points that James made.
7 But is this a cost -- something that DHS is
8 trying to do just to get the cost of -- less
9 costs that they have to pay out?

10 MS. JANET MANN: This is Janet Mann,
11 Director of DMS at DHS. I will answer that
12 for you, sir. The intent of this is, due to
13 a contract ending and being able to
14 transition, and since we have had more
15 programs go to a managed care setting, we
16 would like to take the opportunity to rebid
17 and have more clinical analysis done across
18 the whole population, instead of just set
19 episodes. We did not consider this because
20 of a cost initiative or a cost reduction.
21 Just hopefully that answers your question.

22 MR. TED HALL: Thank you, ma'am.

23 MS. JANET MANN: You are welcome.

24 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: That was a great
25 question. Anybody else that would like to

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1 ask something?

2 MR. REX JONES: This is Rex Jones.

3 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Yes, Rex.

4 MR. REX JONES: I just had a question.

5 Is there, or has there been, or are we going
6 to be part of the discussion for what will
7 be the future monitoring and incentive type
8 programs that are going to be put into place
9 that are basically replaced, or will be
10 replaced, or are replacing this?

11 MS. JANET MANN: This is Janet Mann,
12 again, with DMS. Welcome for the input and
13 the involvement. We have not made any
14 clearcut plans. It will take some time to
15 develop an RFP. And I would like the RFP to
16 be broad enough for clinical analysis that
17 we can -- the goal is to be nimble. If we
18 have something come up in a quarter, that we
19 can study it and have some clinical
20 analysis. But if, in a year, if we don't
21 need to be studying that anymore, we don't
22 have to, but we can add -- we can add
23 analysis easier, is the plan. So, yes, I
24 would welcome the involvement from the
25 provider community. Y'all are providing the

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1 care to the patients, you see them
2 firsthand. And I think that's valuable for
3 us to be able to look at different payment
4 plans and different procedures and different
5 benefits to be added or modified.

6 DR. JAMES GALLAHER: This is James
7 Gallaher. All along, since the inception of
8 the program, when we have looked at a
9 particular treatment group or Episode of
10 Care, during its development, we have always
11 empaneled experts in whatever episode or
12 procedure or treatment that was being
13 considered. We do not want to abandon that
14 approach at all and look for advice from
15 providers, which is why, from the beginning,
16 we never took a quote, unquote, "canned"
17 approach, a national model, we have modeled
18 our program for the way Arkansas sees
19 patients and the way Arkansas treats
20 patients. So, we would certainly welcome
21 that advice and counsel as programs, or as
22 different treatment groups, if you will, are
23 being discussed or considered.

24 So, we also have plans to be able to
25 report to providers any findings and reports

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1 to make that easier to get into the hands of
2 the provider. That's the purpose of us
3 transitioning all of the financial episodes
4 into informational reports, because we want
5 to keep that going, and we can, as Director
6 Mann had stated, we can be a little bit more
7 flexible and accommodate new trends,
8 pricing, and quality of care, standard of
9 care issues so that we are reporting and
10 representing vital and actionable
11 information, not only to the agency
12 ourselves, but to providers and the general
13 healthcare community.

14 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Anybody else have a
15 question or comment?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Okay. The general
18 recommendation from the HQPPAC is to accept
19 the policy draft rule as presented. Are we
20 ready to vote, then? Any more questions?
21 Doctor Bibb?

22 DR. BRADLEY BIBB: Yeah. Do we need to
23 do a roll call, or can we just do a voice
24 vote for this matter?

25 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: I can do a roll

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1 call, if you would like.

2 DR. BRADLEY BIBB: Okay. Yeah, that's
3 fine.

4 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: I will start with
5 you. How is that?

6 DR. BRADLEY BIBB: Okay. I agree with
7 it.

8 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Yea or nay?

9 DR. BRADLEY BIBB: Yea.

10 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Yea? Okay. Mr.
11 Jones?

12 MR. REX JONES: Yea.

13 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Mr. Holman?

14 MR. EDWARD HOLMAN: Yea.

15 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Mr. Hammond?

16 MR. STEVEN HAMMOND: Yea.

17 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Mr. Pianalto?

18 MR. ERIC PIANALTO: Yes.

19 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Mr. Hall?

20 MR. TED HALL: Yea.

21 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Janet?

22 MS. JANET MANN: Yea.

23 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: And did Mr. Smith

24 -- Doctor Smith join us at all?

25 (No response.)

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1 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Rachel Bunch, did
2 you join us?

3 MS. RACHEL BUNCH: Yes, I did. I'm
4 sorry I'm late.

5 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: That's all right.
6 And Eddie Arnold, did you join us?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: All right. The
9 general opinion of the committee, then, is
10 to -- or general recommendation of the
11 committee is to accept the policy draft rule
12 as presented.

13 Doctor Bibb, is there any more business
14 you would like to discuss?

15 DR. BRADLEY BIBB: Well, the only
16 question I have, isn't the sole purpose of
17 this committee, based on the legislation
18 that provides for the committee is for, I
19 guess, the oversight of the Episodes of
20 Care, so this will be going away. Will this
21 committee be disbanded after this, or what's
22 the -- I guess there is no need for any
23 followup meetings. Am I correct?

24 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: I'm so glad you
25 asked that question. Mac Golden, can you

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1 speak to that, by chance?

2 MR. MAC GOLDEN: Well, I'm not sure
3 that the committee will be going away. If
4 other rules come forward that fit into the
5 definition that the committee reviews, then
6 I think the committee would still exist.
7 But I'll have to go back and double check
8 the language. But I do not think it
9 disbands upon the end of the transitions of
10 -- the Episodes of Care.

11 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Well, it's an Act,
12 so it would have to go to the legislature to
13 be disbanded. In that case, having said
14 that, we are supposed to, according to Act
15 1266, elect a new chairman every year.
16 Doctor Bibb has been our chairman from the
17 get-go, and we are now in noncompliance.
18 And since Mac has stated that, I think it
19 would behoove the committee to elect a
20 chairman just in case. So, do I hear a
21 nomination from the committee members?

22 MS. RACHEL BUNCH: Would Doctor Bibb be
23 eligible to serve again as chair?

24 COURT REPORTER: Who is that, please?

25 MS. RACHEL BUNCH: I'm sorry. This is

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1 Rachel.

2 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

3 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Yes, he would.

4 MS. RACHEL BUNCH: I would make that
5 nomination.

6 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Okay. Is there a
7 second?

8 MR. STEVEN HAMMOND: Second. Steve
9 Hammond. Second.

10 COURT REPORTER: Steve who? Oh,
11 Hammond?

12 MR. STEVEN HAMMOND: Steven Hammond. I
13 would second.

14 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

15 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Thank you. We now
16 have a brand new chairman for the next year.
17 And we have an opinion that will be posted
18 to the Healthcare Quality Payment and Policy
19 website. And the minutes, once they are
20 typed up by Debbye and sent to us, will also
21 be posted out there. Thank you all so very
22 much for taking time out of your day for
23 this. I really appreciate it.

24 Doctor Bibb, do you want to close the
25 meeting?

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1 DR. BRADLEY BIBB: Yeah. I mean, I
2 think let's just adjourn. Thank you.

3 MS. ANNE LASOWSKI: Thank you,
4 everybody.

5 MS. JANET MANN: Thank you.

6 (WHEREUPON, at 9:30 a.m., the taking of
7 the above-entitled proceeding was
8 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)
COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, DEBBYE L. PETRE, Certified Court Reporter in and for the County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting, do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter reduced to print by means of computer-assisted transcription, and the same fully, truly, and correctly reflects the proceedings had.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I relative or employee of any attorney or counsel or party connected with the action, and have no interest in the outcome or results of this litigation.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature and seal as such court reporter in the City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, this the 17th day of June, 2020.

DEBBYE L. PETRE, CCR
COURT REPORTER IN AND FOR
PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

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