



IAMHP Monthly Report

February 2020

Prepared and Published by:
The Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans

01

Executive Report

Welcome to the February IAMHP Monthly Report!

The IAMHP team is excited to issue these monthly reports to our members to communicate activities and ongoing projects as well as highlight the fantastic work of our Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Trusted Partners.



Governor J.B Pritzker is scheduled to deliver his second budget address on Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

Illinois operates on an annual budget cycle. This means that the Governor is constitutionally required to propose a balanced budget every year, and, in turn, the General Assembly must pass a balanced budget for the Governor to sign it into law.

"Analyzing the components of a proposed State budget gives you greater insight into the priorities of the current Administration."

As many remember, Governor Pritzker proposed a Medicaid Tax in last year's budget proposal which later become part of the budget package signed by Governor Pritzker on June 5. The exuberance on display as he signed the bill that Wednesday showed the shift in priorities of the new Administration, after the budget stalemate under the Governor Rauner. Our Monthly Topic will dive deeper into what we can expect from Governor Pritzker this legislative session and changes in the General Assembly.

Don't forget! Look for our Lunch and Learn Webinar regarding Rosters on February 26th from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. The registration code required to waive the \$49 fee for MCOs and Trusted Partners is **IAMHP211**.

Monthly Topic

02

General Assembly Update February 2020



In January, the Illinois General Assembly returned to Springfield to begin the 2020 Spring Legislative Session. This marks the second year of the 101st General Assembly.

State of the State

Per Article V, Section XII of the Illinois Constitution, the Governor is required to report to the Illinois General Assembly at the beginning of each legislative session on the condition of the State and any recommendations which the Governor may desire.

During the Governor's annual State of the State address on January 29, Pritzker focused on ethics reform, property taxes, criminal justice reform, clean energy legislation and his graduated income tax plan. His speech was light on healthcare.

Monthly Topic

03

State Budget

Traditionally, the second year of a General Assembly focuses on budgetary issues. The state budget is comprised of a collection of appropriations for a specified fiscal year. An “appropriation” is a permission given by the General Assembly to an agency to spend money contained in the state treasury. An appropriation does not give the agency cash. Rather, an appropriation should be thought of as the authority to spend.

Both House Rule 18(b) and Senate Rule 3-7(b) state that appropriation bills shall be assigned to committees in the even-numbered session years or those bills deemed to be of an “emergency” nature. However, an “emergency” is defined by the House Rules Committee and the Senate Committee on Assignments, and historically they have taken very liberal interpretations of what constitutes "emergency".

The Governor presents his budget recommendations to the General Assembly on the 3rd Wednesday in February, which this year falls on February 19. After the Budget Address, the various appropriation committees will hear from agencies and other interested parties to develop agency budgets. The General Assembly must approve agency budget bills before May 31st or a super majority vote will be required to pass the budget.

The state’s operating budget falls into three different types of spending categories: mandatory spending, priority spending and discretionary spending. Obviously, mandatory spending is payments the state is required to make, which includes funding the Medicaid program. IAMHP will be following the Budget Address and appropriations process closely to ensure full funding for the program.

Monthly Topic

04

Senate President Changes

Last fall, former Senate President John Cullerton announced his retirement. This announcement came as a shock to his caucus and those who work under the Dome.

The Senate Democrats scrambled to determine who they would elect to be the next leader of their caucus and it came down to Majority Leader Kim Lightford and Assistant Leader Don Harmon.

After the votes were tallied, Senator Don Harmon emerged as the new Senate President.

President Harmon hails from Oak Park and has handled several high-profile issues over the last several years, including sponsoring the constitutional amendment that will ask the voters to approve a progressive income tax. President Harmon has a strong record with labor, the plaintiffs' bar and the environmental community. Health care initiatives he has worked on include, the Right to Breastfeed Act, Alternatives to Opioids Act, and a bill giving psychologists the ability to prescribe medication.

His first task as Senate President will be to reunite his caucus after the leadership race to ensure cohesion and collaboration heading into Session.

05

IAMHP Lobbyist Team

JOHN LOWDER

John Lowder is a partner of the firm and has 18 years of legislative experience. He served 14 years as the Research and Appropriations Director for the Illinois House Democratic Caucus. During those 14 years, John and his staff analyzed and advised legislators on legislation affecting a wide range of topics including municipal government, pensions, transportation and public safety issues.

John served as a top advisor to House leadership on issues ranging from tax code changes to pension difficulties. Additionally, in his capacity as Appropriations Director, John negotiated and supervised the drafting of every budget from FY 2000 – FY 2013.

John has a strong working knowledge of the budget issues that are important to Medicaid managed care. His intimate knowledge of the state budget and the process used to construct it allow him to provide his clients with a distinct advantage in protecting their resources and the best opportunity to expand their programs.



KAREEM KENYATTA

Mr. Kenyatta has nearly a decade of experience working with the Illinois Legislature. Before joining Zack Stamp Consulting LLC, he served as Director of Legislative Affairs for Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. As Legislative Director, he implemented and coordinated a comprehensive legislative strategy for the Attorney General during each legislative session. In addition to direct legislative advocacy, these strategies often included message, media, and public relation components, as well as interfacing with government officials on the state, federal, and local levels.

Prior to his role with the Illinois Attorney General, Mr. Kenyatta worked for the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives' Research and Budget Office where he represented the Speaker and House members in negotiations on legislation, budget appropriations, and public policy initiatives. In this capacity he also managed the appropriation process for a number of state agencies and regional authorities.

06

Who's Who of Medicaid

Pam Sanborn, Plan President

In which segment of the industry are you currently involved?

Currently, I am serving in leadership at Molina Healthcare of Illinois, serving over 225,000 Medicaid & MMAI members statewide. Previous roles were in the finance area leading financial operations & analytic teams in the managed care insurance industry. I started out on the provider side working hospital finance for over 20 years.



My greatest accomplishments center around turning around operations and leading teams through that process.

What is a memorable quote to you and why?

Lee Cockerell, former EVP Operations for Walt Disney World Resort – “It’s not the magic that makes it work; it’s the way we work that makes it magic.” This speaks to me – because every successful business is due to its people and a leader is only successful because of the team they surround themselves with AND letting them do their jobs!

What do you enjoy doing most with your personal time?

Going on Caribbean cruises & crafting

What accomplishment(s) are you most proud?

Rebuilding teams and turning around operations. I have had the opportunity three times in my career to go into companies/divisions and rebuild teams, turnaround operations and deliver results that improved service to the customers/members we were serving. The results delivered improved member outcomes, financial improvement and employee satisfaction.

What is your favorite food and why?

Favorite food (besides chocolate) is sushi – I’m not so great at navigating the chop sticks but that hasn’t stopped me yet!

What is the top issue that you think will be important in Medicaid in the next 6 months?

In Illinois the top issue will be a smooth transition with all the mergers of MCOs within the state. We must ensure members stay at the center of all that we do. On the pharmacy side we just went to a single PDL in the state, so reviewing the data and ensuring it is working as intended will be a priority. For integrated care we will need to better bring together physical and behavioral health as well as supportive community services. The key to improving health outcomes in Illinois is ensuring all entities within the delivery channel are working together. Key to that is understanding the social determinants of health and the barriers to care and broken processes within the system. The industry focusing on this will deliver better results for those we serve!

07 Trusted Partners

IAMHP is excited to showcase:

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C. a national law firm with a primary focus on health care and life sciences, employment, labor, and workforce management. Founded in 1973 as an health industry-focused firm, Epstein Becker Green has decades of experience serving clients in health care, life sciences and technology industries. Operating in locations throughout the United States and supporting domestic and multinational clients, the firm's attorneys are committed to uncompromising client service and legal excellence.

Epstein Becker Green was one of the innovators of, and is a prominent law firm in, managed care delivery systems. The firm has worked with managed care organizations for more than four decades, and firm attorneys have provided key technical advice to Congress, federal agencies, and states throughout the development, passage, and implementation of managed care legislation. Managed care has undergone significant changes over the past three decades with many organizations assuming national leadership roles in reshaping the American health care delivery system. Many of the changes in health law have paralleled the evolution of managed care, and Epstein Becker Green attorneys have been at the forefront, working closely with managed care organizations in this area.

Epstein Becker Green has provided hundreds of managed care organizations with critical assistance in developing successful organizational responses to managed care operational and regulatory issues and has served as counsel to the leading professional trade associations for managed care organizations. For more information, visit www.ebglaw.com.

Becoming a Trusted Partner

Every business has a story to tell, something that connects potential partners to their brand.

Trusted Partners have an opportunity to express their company's core values to others in the healthcare space, convene with the top leaders within the health care sector through multiple networking opportunities, and stay up to date on the latest industry related news.

IAMHP represents the entire industry of Medicaid Health Plans in Illinois and we have become stewards in ensuring high quality, accessible healthcare. If you know someone who wants to crystallize their connection to the Medicaid Industry by becoming a Trusted Partner today, send them our link: <https://iamhp.net/Membership>