

Agenda & Minutes

Meeting Information:	
Meeting Date & Time:	02/27/2017 9:30am – 10:30 am (Central)
Meeting Title:	Network Adequacy Planning Meeting
Called by:	Zane Chrisman, Deputy Commissioner, Regulatory Health Link Division
Mode of meeting	In Person or Phone-in
Attendees	Attachment 1
Attachments* (Agenda, Handouts, PPTs, etc.):	1) Slide deck used available within: http://rhld.insurance.arkansas.gov/Default/NetworkAdequacy as "Presentation" under February 27, 2017 Meeting
Agenda:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and housekeeping • Review and Certification Timelines • Network Adequacy Status Update • Review of new publications • Next Steps 	

Meeting Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonmoy Dasgupta, IT Oversight & Management, Regulatory Health Link Division (RHLD) welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Dasgupta reiterated the importance of an accurate contact list for communications. The Network Adequacy Contact List is currently published on RHLD website at: http://rhld.insurance.arkansas.gov/Default/NetworkAdequacy. Jim Gonzalez (Jim.gonzalez@arkansas.gov) remains the RHLD contact for all modifications to the list. • Zane Chrisman, Deputy Commissioner, addressed the group as to the current timeline for plan submissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An attempt to issue a draft bulletin will be made soon, with the final Bulletin published by April 1, 2017. ○ She mentioned that the NAIC sent information on timelines with regards to changes in the ACA. Any issuers that wanted a copy of the information could email her directly at Zane.Chrisman@arkansas.gov. ○ Ms. Chrisman stated that Network Adequacy data was due by May 3, 2017. ○ The rest of files and templates are due by May 15, 2017 with corrected rate templates by June 21. ○ Rate files are due by July 14, 2017. ○ RHLD review will be done by July 25, 2017, and the binders will be sent to AHIM for review. • Mr. Dasgupta pointed out the progress in the Network Adequacy process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Finalized PY2018 Provider Type NPI List</i> was published February 23, 2017. ○ Issuers will use that list to submit PY2018 Network Adequacy Data in SERFF by May 3, 2017. • Mr. Dasgupta discussed the maintenance process of the Provider-Type NPI Pools (PTNPs) and the elements of the data streams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The maintenance process has three elements of data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Previous Year's Finalized Provider-Type NPI Pool, and ▪ The previous year's Federal ECP//NA template data since it becomes available after the Finalized PTNPs, and ▪ Industry additions through the maintenance process. • The results of the maintenance process for the PY2018 PTNPs were discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was a 28% reduction in unique NPIs since the previous year. While initially concerning to AID, it was determined that most of the changes were agreed to by multiple issuers and the vast majority of the reductions were out-of-state providers.

- **RHLD reiterated the removal of contiguous-county constraint** leaving the issuers to determine what provider practicing locations in the adjoining state were suitable for meeting network adequacy requirements.
 - Further analysis of the PY2018 Final PTNP showed that:
 - 75% of the NPIs came from the Final PY2017 PTNPs, and
 - 18% came from the PY2017 Federal ECP/NA templates, and
 - 7% came from industry additions after the maintenance process.
 - A slide providing the Provider-Type NPI Pool changes by Criteria(C-buckets) was reviewed. All current C-buckets had significant reductions other than the three new C-buckets of C250, C260 and C280.
 - Mr. Dasgupta provided a review of some of the most common difficulties for AID in processing the data from issuers. Areas of concern included:
 - **Issuers not understanding the PTNP data maintenance process.**
 - Issuers sometimes **do not use the correct template** when submitting data.
 - **Issuers utilize the Objection/Validation stage to make suggestions like adds/deletes/misclassification corrections.** Those valuable suggestions **cannot be processed in that stage** as it would require another round of issuers' feedback.
 - The Objection/Validation stage is not a place to list as a reason that a provider is a "valid provider." **This stage is only to give consent or object to a suggestion for a change in Provider Type classification for a particular NPI.**
 - In the **Addition-Deletion stage a misclassified NPI **may** require two or more suggestions** to correct; one suggestion to remove from the incorrect Provider Type and potentially one or more suggestions to add to other qualifying Provider Type(s). Issuers must carefully review the instructions for the template.
 - The reasons provided by issuers throughout the data maintenance process, either during the add/delete stage or during the Objection/Validation stage are of critical value to AID. Among other things, the reasons help settle ties or disputes between suggestions. It has been observed in the previous data maintenance round that a general reason for a suggestion is just copied down the template, diminishing its value. **Please make every attempt towards providing a meaningful reason for each suggestion.**
 - When adding an NPI or objecting to a removal of an NPI, carefully review:
 - If practicing locations are far out of service area, and
 - The taxonomy for the NPI and the taxonomic definition of the Provider Type.
- The document *PY2018 NA Review Process and Timelines* has been published on the RHLD website: <http://rhld.insurance.arkansas.gov/Default/NetworkAdequacy>.
 - In Calendar Year 2017, Issuers **will be required to engage in a Mid-year update of PTNPs** with the Addition/Deletion suggestions **due on June 1, 2017**. To facilitate this feedback a template called *Mid-Year Initial PY2018 Provider Type NPI Pool* will be published by AID. This mid-year update would end with the publication of *Finalized PY2018 Provider Type NPI Pool (Updated)* **by August 15, 2017**
 - In Calendar Year 2017, Issuers would be required to submit updated PY2017 Network Adequacy Data **for a mid-Year NA review** and this submission is **due October 1, 2017**. Two templates are required for a mid-year review. The mid-year updated PTNPs should be used to update the *AR Specialty Access Template* for PY2017 Plans. In addition, the Federal ECP/NA Template with the latest data would need to be supplied.

- The following templates are available on the RHL D website:
 - <http://rhld.insurance.arkansas.gov/Info/Public/Templates>
 - *PY2018 AR Specialty Access Template*
 - *PY2018 AR Justification Template*
 - *PY2018 AR Provider-Enrollee Ratio Template*
 - All templates have updated instructions for ease of completion.
 - Significant changes in the templates are:
 - Pharmacies have been added as a facility in C-bucket C-280. **Does not apply to Dental-only issuers.** Criteria threshold is 30 miles (36 miles for rural counties as the usual 20% relaxation applies).
 - Three Hospital types have been deemed as “Specialty” Hospitals and the distance requirement has been changed from 30 to 60 miles (72 miles for rural counties as the usual 20% relaxation applies). They are:
 - C030 Mental Health/Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder Facility, and
 - C200 Hospital by Licensure Type-Mental Health & Substance Abuse, and
 - C210 Hospital by Licensure Type-Rehabilitation.
- *PY2018 SERFF Network Adequacy Data Submission Instructions* will be posted in SERFF’s Plan Management General Instructions tab and has also been posted in RHL D’s Network Adequacy webpage.
 - This documents what issuers need to know to prepare data for the Arkansas templates. For instance, it details when **upfront justifications are required** from issuers.
 - The following are **no longer required** as all information is provided within *AR Specialty Access Template*:
 - Geo-access maps
 - PDF report of provider-type access by county.
- Questions and Answers with Issuers
 - Issuers asked when and where the list of School-Based Providers will be made available. Ms. Allbritton, Compliance Officer, stated that the list of School-Based Providers will be made available the following week (March 10, 2017) in SERFF and possibly the RHL D website.
 - There were concerns raised over School-based Providers as some who may be qualified for Medicaid but may not qualify to be in their network. Issuers will discuss this with AID in a separate meeting.
- Next steps for industry include:
 - Submit Network Adequacy data for review within SERFF by **May 3, 2017**.
 - Keep working on Add/delete suggestions using AID’s publication “Mid-year Initial PY2018 Provider Type NPI Pool” (to be published by **March 15, 2017**). These suggestions are **due June 1, 2017**.
 - Next meeting for NA on **Thursday, May 18, 2017, 9:30am – 10:30am**.
- Tonmoy Dasgupta, IT Oversight & Management, adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.

Attachment 1

Name	Organization	Attendance Mode
F.B. Sewell	Blue Cross Blue Shield	Yes
Teresa White	Blue Cross Blue Shield	Yes
Amanda Hatfield	Blue Cross Blue Shield	Yes
Edie Arey	Delta	Yes
Jordan Burgess	Delta	Yes
Karen Green	Qualchoice	Yes
Jamie Gilmore	AR Health and Wellness	Yes
J.D. Robinson	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
Whitney Howell	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
Bill Lacy	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
Jim Gonzalez	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
Tonmoy Dasgupta	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
Chantel Allbritton	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
Donna Lambert	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
Zane Chrisman	Arkansas Insurance Department	Yes
George Gorman	AR Health and Wellness	Yes
Bryan Meldrum	AR Health and Wellness	Yes
Anne Yearly	Delta	Online
Clyde Martin	AETNA	Online
Cory Rossi	Delta	Online
Darcey Gartner	AETNA	Online
Edie Arey	Delta	Online
Emmie Smith	AETNA	Online
Geri McKeown	Ameritas	Online
Janice Jones	AETNA	Online
Joy Odom	Delta	Online
Kathy Therrien	AETNA	Online
Linzie Klein	Principal	Online
Susan Shandy	GEHA	Online
Trish Jenkins	Blue Cross Blue Shield	Online