

Meeting Minutes

ND HHS Tribal Consultation

March 20, 2024

8:30-10:30am CT

Topic and Speaker	Meeting Notes
Opening Wayne Salter <i>HHS Commissioner</i>	New ND HHS Commissioner Wayne Salter was a special guest and opened the meeting by highlighting the HHS mission and importance of having these types of meeting to receive valuable feedback from our Tribal partners to continue improving our programs and services and delivering on the HHS mission to serve.
Topic and Speaker	Meeting Notes
Public Health Division Updates Krissie Guerard <i>Community Engagement Director</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Tribal Maternal and Child Health Mini Grant opportunity. For more information please see the handout and FAQ sheet. • There is a Health Equity Training Series available on community engagement website. • They are looking for 15-21 year olds and more tribal member engagement for Youth Advisory Board. Learn more and apply for the Youth Advisory Board here. • The Community Engagement Unit Strategic Plan has been finalized. • The tribal data meetings have reconvened. Those interested in attending should contact Hunter Parisien - dlhparisien@nd.gov
Indian Affairs Updates Anthony Bauer <i>Deputy Director, Indian Affairs</i>	Anthony Bauer is the new Deputy Director of Indian Affairs. He brings a background in business and workforce development with an interest in healthcare workforce.
State Plan Amendment (SPA) & Waiver updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming SPAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services SPA to add Behavior Analysts • Request coverage for school psychologists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current SPAs Mandy Dendy, <i>Coverage Policy Director</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1911(i) State Plan Amendment 	Update on 1915(i) behavioral health community-based services and supports. This program provides an array of services to support qualifying people of all ages with mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and brain injuries living successfully in their homes and communities. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approved a state plan amendment (SPA) on February 1st which made some important changes:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adding the Daily Living Activities-20 (DLA) assessment in addition to the World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) as a functional needs assessment for 1915(i) eligibility. Qualifying scores are 25+ for the WHODAS and 5 or lower for the DLA. ▪ Increasing remote support (telehealth) limits from 25% to 75% for services. ▪ Removing service limits. <p>You can learn more at https://www.hhs.nd.gov/1915i You can also view the 1915(i) presentation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waivers <p>Nancy Nikolas Maier, <i>Adults & Aging Services Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver and other state and federal funds that are available to eligible individuals to receive care and stay in their home and community. • Discussed the Native American engagement group that meets monthly with Adult and Aging Services staff to discuss service needs and improvements that can be made to address barriers to access HCBS for Native Americans across the State. Those interested in attending the meetings can email Monique Runnels. • More information can be found on the North Dakota Aging and Disability Resource Link(ADRL) website. You can call also contact the ADRL at 1-855-462-5465. Sandi Erber is the contact person for the ADRL.
<p>Katherine Barchenger, <i>Children’s Waiver Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Autism ○ Medically Fragile ○ Children’s Hospice 	<p>Reviewed the children’s waivers and new approvals for the Autism (ASD) Waiver, Medically Fragile waiver (MFW) and Children’s Hospice waiver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both MFW and Children’s Hospice were approved in July with the only change being the Medically Fragile waiver increasing to 50 slots and an increase in the waiver cost limit to \$25,300.00. • The ASD waiver was submitted to CMS with a requested approval date of November 1, 2023, but due to continued conversations with CMS concerning the two new services of Community Connector and Remote Monitoring, the waiver only received approval on January 29, 2024. Waiver was updated to 345 slots and two new programs were added. HHS is currently working with families to fill the new 195 slots on the ASD waiver. <p>Other items mentioned were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid Family Caregiver Pilot program – program resulting from Senate Bill 2276 to make a payment to family caregivers for completing extraordinary cares to an individual on one of the four HCBS children’s waivers (ASD / MFW/ Children’s Hospice and IDD/DD). Application will be through the developed portal and families must complete an Extraordinary Questionnaire to qualify for the program. Interested people should look for the news announcement of the program coming out the last

	<p>week of March. You can find more information on the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Disability Advisory Council (CDAC) – open to the public to listen in to the meeting that are once a month – next one is April 11 at 9:30 am. This Council is made up of 15 individuals with a majority being either a parent of or an individual receiving or who has received waiver services. Their task is to advise the Department on how to move forward with a possible cross disability waiver that will include the MFW and ASD waiver and mild to moderate children on the IDD/DD waiver. Visit the ND CDAC webpage for more information.
<p>Tina Bay, <i>Developmental Disability Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Traditional Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities (IID/DD) HCBS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the Traditional Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities (IID/DD) HCBS waiver. • Currently working with CMS to get this waiver renewed. It expires at the end of March. • Those wanting to access services under the waiver can contact the DD Unit in Human Service Centers.
<p>Tribal Consultation</p> <p>Feedback was provided on the respite provided under the ASD waiver. Currently a respite provider must live outside the home however many native families live in multigenerational homes.</p>	
<p>Policy Updates & Provider Enrollment Streamlining</p>	
<p>Mandy Dendy, Coverage Policy Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential IHS/638 Policy language updates ○ Upcoming Coverage additions 	<p>The ND Medicaid Provider Policy page has a new look and no longer has long manuals for general or behavioral health services. Providers can now look for the applicable policy and get to it with one click. Policies can be found at https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/provider/manuals-and-guidelines.</p> <p>It's expected that the Indian Health Service (IHS)/638 Tribally Operated Facilities policy will be revised and updated effective April 1st to replace the 638 Facility terminology with "Tribal Health Programs" consistent with the ISDEAA and the IHCIA. 100% FMAP and Care Coordination will also be added to the policy.</p> <p>Three new services are being added to Medicaid coverage effective April 1st.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBIRT – Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, Treatment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meant to prevent or reduce substance use through early intervention ● Interprofessional Consultations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treating providers can consult with a specialist to assist the treating provider in diagnosis and/or management of a patient's health condition without requiring the patient to have face-to face contact with the specialist. ○ Specialists bill for their consultation time with these codes. ● Preventive Medicine Counseling and/or Risk Factor Reduction Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk factor reduction services to promote health and prevent illness or injury. ○ Service occurs outside of a preventive medicine visit. <p>New policy for these services should be available April 1st. SBIRT and Preventive Medicine Counseling will be in our Preventive Services and Chronic Disease Management policy and Interprofessional Consultations will be in the Telehealth policy.</p>
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<p>Michelle Adams, Operations Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provider enrollment streamlining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noridian provider enrollment specialists are now available to take live phone calls to answer questions about enrollment, revalidations, maintenance items and more. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT, Monday-Friday. They can be reached at 701-277-6999. Providers will still have the option to leave a voicemail outside of core hours. ● There are recent provider form updates listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFN 009 Medicaid Rehabilitative Services Provider Enrollment Attestation SFN 615 Medicaid Program Provider Agreement SFN 620 Non-Emergent Medical Transportation SFN 661 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) SFN 1299 Group Address Update SFN 1330 Request To Add An Affiliation SFN 1331 Provider Termination ● There are upcoming changes to the Provider Enrollment (PE) website, PE process and PE call center. Changes are aimed at improving the provider enrollment process and reducing the number of denied applications.
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Q&A Session

Questions were answered on out of state provider enrollment. **Action Item:** Michelle Adams will follow up on getting the 90-day Provider Revalidation Roster updated.

<p>Member Engagement Jen Sheppard, Member Liaison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member Engagement Committee Update ○ Website & Notice Redesign 	<p>The Member Engagement Committee (MMEC) held their first meeting in March 2024. There are currently 6 members on the committee. We are still seeking members from groups not currently represented such as young adults, pregnant moms, refugees, and low income etc. Qualifications are that applicants must be a current or past recipient (within the last 3 years) or a caregiver of a family member on Medicaid. Those interested can fill out an easy online application. For more information contact Jen Sheppard.</p> <p>Medical services is reviewing notices going to our members. Our goals are to ensure we are plainly telling our members what they need to know and how to respond, if needed.</p> <p>Members can expect to see changes on our website including navigation improvements and more plain language. Our Member Handbook is currently under revision. Our goal is to help members understand their Medicaid benefits and easily connect them with the resources they need.</p>
<p>Tribal Care Coordination Monique Runnels, <i>Tribal Medicaid Liaison</i></p>	<p>No new Tribal Care Coordination agreements were signed since last consultation. Updated tribal care coordination presentation posted on website. Discussion was held on barriers to tribal care coordination and how Medical Services can assist in addressing them.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Q&A Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion about whether MMEC participants are reimbursed for their participation and how especially for this population volunteering time is a privilege that our members may not have. There is currently no reimbursement. • Request to educate Non-Tribal and Non IHS providers on tribal care coordination. • Tribes identified barrier as no incentive for non-tribal/non-IHS providers to enter into care coordination agreements. <p>Action Item: Medical Services to reach out to Hospital Association and start having conversations with the healthcare providers.</p>	
<p>Tribal Liaison Report Out Items Monique Runnels, <i>Tribal Medicaid Liaison</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask an Eligibility Expert ○ SUD Voucher New Provider Webinar ○ Medicaid 101 Presentation ○ Expansion follow-up ○ Self Service Portal Testing 	<p>Medical Services hosted an Ask an Eligibility Expert Webinar on 1/26/24. Joyce Johnson, Medicaid Eligibility Policy Director answered questions related to eligibility. Tribal partners were able to ask their eligibility questions. Discussion was held on how we can better address questions and concerns.</p> <p>A new provider webinar for the SUD Voucher was held on 3/19/2024. Webinars provided about every 6 months-next tentative September 2024. You can visit the voucher website or email for more information. There are also free behavioral health products tribes can order here.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MHA/ND Navigator Meeting & MHA Health Coverage Day○ Data Updates	<p>The Medicaid 101 Presentation is nearly complete. A focus group was formed to provide feedback on the presentation. The first meeting was held 3/12/2024. Monique will update the presentation and the group plans to meet again in April 2024.</p> <p>Monique met with Jared Ferguson, Medicaid Expansion Administrator, to follow up on questions and issues regarding Medicaid Expansion. Tribes do get encounter rate if they are enrolled as a tribal provider. Jared offered to set up meetings between the tribes and BCBS to get their Medicaid Expansion questions answered. Tribes stated they would like this.</p> <p>Medical Services participated in the Self-Service Portal (SSP) Usability testing. SSP testing was done with zone workers, community partners and members. Our goal is to ensure the SSP is user friendly.</p> <p>A collaborative meeting between MHA and ND Navigators was organized by the ND tribal Medicaid Liaison and the MHA Tribal Health Liaison. ND Navigators can meet with members to enroll into health coverage. ND Navigators can also do virtual appointments with members. ND Navigators are assisting with health care coverage applications at Elbowoods and the MHA field clinics. The ND Navigators cover the entire state of North Dakota. More information can be found on their website.</p> <p>MHA is hosting a Health Coverage Day on 4/10/2024. Representatives of Medical Services and the ND Navigators will be there to assist with the event.</p> <p>There is a data dashboard in development. A preview of the dashboard was shared with those in attendance. Currently the dashboard can identify application type, number of applications, and processing times. The applications can be broken down by tribal and non-tribal member and by tribe. Other requests have been made to show top application denial reasons and the methods of submission.</p>
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Q&A Session

Questions and issues brought up regarding application processing. Question about earned rights benefit and the requirement to apply for unemployment. Tribal Partners state difficulty getting answers to their questions. **Action Item:** Monique and Mandy to follow up with eligibility on questions and concerns.

MHA had questions regarding the SUD Voucher. The SUD Voucher is not under Medicaid and was shared as a potential resource for tribes to use as the voucher can assist with members receiving SUD treatment in an IMD facility. **Action Item:** Monique to work with Sonya Abe to set up a meeting with MHA and SUD Voucher administrator to answer questions.

Tribes have questions regarding Medicaid Expansion. **Action Item:** Monique to follow up with Jared Ferguson to start meetings between the tribes and BCBS.

Tribal Consultation Changes

- Format Changes
- Review Consultation SPA

Format Change?

- Tribal partners would like to continue hybrid option.

Reviewed Consultation SPA

- Tribal Health Directors would like time together to discuss potential agenda topics.
- There is an opening on the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee (MMAC). Applications will be accepted until May 7, 2024. Visit the [MMAC website](#) for more information on the committee and how to apply.
- Upcoming Medicaid Tribal Consultation meeting dates and times can be found on our [website](#).

Tribal Consultation

MHA is requesting Medicaid pursue a SUD IMD waiver. ND Medicaid will not be pursuing an IMD waiver at this time.

Date Posted:

Date Revised: