

Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee Meeting (MMAC) Minutes February 28, 2023

- Meeting called to order at 4:02pm.
- Roll call of committee members in attendance: Matuor Alier, Melissa Bingham, Dr. Joan Connell, Donene Feist, Trina Gress, Kim Hacker, Amy Hornbacher, Amber Huez, Courtney Koebele, Elizabeth Larson Steckler, Senator Judy Lee, Senator Tim Mathern, Janelle Moos, Lisa Murry, Rachel Sinness, Shawn Stuhau, and Dr. Nizar Wehbi
- Members Absent: Brenda Bergsrud, Tim Blasl, Nancy Froslic, Stephen Olson, Emma Quinn, Gayla Sherman, Representative Robin Weisz.

Discussion

- The MMAC Charter is currently not posted online. Members were asked if they wanted to post the Charter online. The Charter lists the entire membership rolling over after 4 years which is listed as December 31, 2024. Members discussed potential changes to the charter provisions regarding number of members, term lengths and renewals, and who is represented on MMAC.
 - Beth Larson Steckler moved to post the Charter online and Senator Judy Lee seconded. Vote on the motion was in favor of posting the Charter online. None opposed.
 - Members may volunteer to serve on a workgroup to discuss changes to the Charter which can then be presented to full MMAC membership at the August 2023 meeting. The Charter is to be reviewed the first meeting of the new biennium which is the August meeting.
 - Members of this workgroup may also make a recommendation about posting MMAC member names and who they represent (healthcare organization, policy/law maker, beneficiary, etc.) to the full MMAC.
 - Charter language needs to be updated to reflect Health and Human Services integration which happened in September 2022.
 - [42 CFR § 431.12](#) relates to state Medical Care Advisory Committees and serves as a guideline for ND's MMAC.
 - The Charter will be posted on the [MMAC webpage](#).
- Members were polled to see if they wanted the educational topics presented at MMAC meetings to continue. A majority said yes. Members were invited to share topics they'd like to hear about in the future.
 - A suggestion was made to highlight member experiences and consider doing joint topics that would be presented with both Medicaid personnel and members. Other suggestions were gathered throughout the meeting. Additional topics of interest can be submitted to Mandy Dendy at mrdendy@nd.gov prior to upcoming MMAC meetings.
- Open MMAC seat announcement – the MMAC Charter allows up to 25 people to serve on MMAC and there are currently 24. An open seat announcement was made. Interested parties can nominate themselves or others to serve by emailing Mandy Dendy at mrdendy@nd.gov prior to May 16, 2023, with the following information:
 - Briefly describe yourself or the MMAC nominee (what your/the nominee's interest or experience with ND Medicaid is); and
 - Explain why this person should be a MMAC member (what makes you or the nominee a good fit for the MMAC in your opinion).

- American Rescue Plan – temporary 10% increase to FMAP for certain Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) – the HHS HCBS American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding timeline was presented showing initiatives from 2022 through Spring 2025.
- [Faces of Medicaid](#) website is live. It includes written stories as well as videos highlighting the four Medicaid members featured.
- Unwinding of ND Medicaid continuous enrollment. Continuous enrollment ending March 31, 2023. ND Medicaid has the [Stay Covered ND site](#) with information for members which providers can share with their members to ensure members don't unnecessarily lose coverage.
 - There is a webinar on March 7th from 1-1:45pm CT to learn how partners, providers, and other community stakeholders can help prepare ND Medicaid members for resumption of their annual renewals which will be starting on April 1, 2023 and continue for 12 months.
 - ND has 14 months to complete this process.
 - Members are encouraged to use the enhanced self-service portal at <https://www.applyforhelp.nd.gov/> and email applyforhelp@nd.gov using a case number, if applicable, with questions.
 - Cheryl Coyle with ND Navigators provided contact information (1-800-233-1737 – general line – and her direct number (701)-858-3052) and a website <https://ndcpd.org/NDnavigator/> to learn more about healthcare navigators in ND.
- The National COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) is ending on May 11, 2023. This will mean an end to flexibilities granted to ND Medicaid because of the PHE.
- Codes/Services subcommittee – SFN 905 is the form providers and/or the public can use to recommend Medicaid coverage of uncovered codes and services. (form can be found at this page - <https://www.nd.gov/eforms>) SFN 905 is being updated to collect additional information. Medical Services will conduct a feasibility analysis of the requested code or service using information submitted on SFN 905.
 - If the analysis is favorable, Medical Services will assess how to proceed with implementing coverage, which may include needing legislative action at a future legislative session. Medical Services will report on the requested codes and services and analysis results at MMAC meetings.
 - Codes and services which are not recommended through Medical Services' analysis will go to the Codes and Services Subcommittee following the currently used process.
- Legislative topics
 - [HB 1530](#) (MMAC Codes/Services recommendations) was amended and passed by the House. It is now going to the Senate for consideration.
 - [SB 2017](#) passed the Senate. It would have HHS obtain approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to expand medical assistance coverage for pregnant women with income below 185% of the poverty level. The level is currently 162%.
 - Other bills of interest can be researched at www.ndlegis.gov.

Medical Services Division Updates

- New Member Engagement Coordinator position – Jen Waldner has been hired in this new position to ND Medicaid and started mid-February. One future project Jen will work on is a Member Handbook.
- Peer Support added to Medicaid Expansion Benefit effective January 1, 2023.
- State Plan Amendments
 - Postpartum coverage extension has been approved. Now women who are Medicaid-enrolled on the day that they give birth receive coverage for a full year after the child's birth. [Click here](#) to learn more.

- Medicaid coverage for Former Foster Care Children now includes ND resident children that have been in foster care in other states. This became effective January 1, 2023. Coverage goes up to age 26.
- Waiver Updates
 - Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendment - the application has been submitted to add additional slots to address increased use by more beneficiaries. Waiver amendment is made retroactive to January 1, 2023.
 - Technology Dependent Waiver – this waiver can support up to 3 individuals but has historically only been used by 1 and has not been used since 2018. Public comment is being sought on an amendment to terminate the Technology Dependent Waiver effective July 1, 2023. Comments are being accepted from March 1, 2023, to March 31, 2023. [Click here](#) for more information.
 - Children’s Hospice Waiver 5-year renewal public comment – this waiver provides services to children from birth to their 22nd birthday. The goal is to help families keep their child home to receive needed care for the child’s life-limiting diagnosis. Public comment is being accepted from March 1, 2023, to March 30, 2023. [Click here](#) for more information.

Education Topic:

- Health Tracks (EPSDT) benefit facilitation changes
 - Effective July 1, 2022, the Health Tracks benefit in North Dakota underwent a reorganization resulting in a 3-person Provider Outreach Team and a 3-person Member Outreach team.
 - Since July 2022, the Member Outreach team has initiated at least 2,000 1-on-1 phone conversations with families about their child/children’s Health Tracks benefits. This outreach has been well-received.
 - Since July 2022, the Provider Outreach team has had 93 contacts with 55 clinics about delivering Health Tracks/Well-child visits. The team has produced a [Provider toolkit](#) providers can use.
 - Health Tracks now has its own dedicated phone number (701)-328-2014.
 - More information can be found at <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/medicaid/health-tracks>.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm.

Next meeting date:

May 23, 2023, 3-5pm CT via Microsoft Teams