

## Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee Meeting (MMAC) August 22, 2023, 3-5pm CT

- Meeting called to order at 3:02pm
- Members in attendance: Matuor Alier, Brenda Bergsrud, Melissa Bingham, Tim Blasl, Dr. Joan Connell, Donene Feist, Nancy Froslic, Trina Gress, Daniel Gulya, Kim Hacker, Amy Hornbacher, Courtney Koebele, Senator Judy Lee, Senator Tim Mathern, Janelle Moos, Lisa Murry, Stephen Olson, Shawn Stuhau, Dr. Nizar Wehbi, Bobbie Will.

Welcome to new member *Bobbie Will – State Policy & Advocacy Manager – Susan G. Komen* (and former MMAC member)

### Miscellaneous Follow-up Items

- The June Provider newsletter was sent out using a delivery platform called GovDelivery. Providers can now subscribe to receive the Medicaid Provider newsletter at <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/contact> under Subscribe to News and Alerts.

A screenshot of a subscription form with the following options:

- Medicaid
- Medicaid Provider Newsletter
- News - Medicaid
- Medicaid Member Newsletter

- We anticipate being able to better tailor future newsletter content by seeing what information providers are interested in as they read newsletters.
- Poll results – 1 star means no real change noticed & 5 stars is considered an upgrade.



- July updated Policy manuals are located at <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/provider/manuals-and-guidelines>. Next manual updates will be in October.
- New Medicaid School-based [webpage](#) resource.
  - Training info online. 1915(i) webinar for schools September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am CT, registration info [here](#).
  - School Medicaid webinar series recordings and presentations [here](#) under Children’s Services.
- Community Health Worker Task Force facilitator has been selected – APT Solutions, members are currently being seated per [House Bill 1028](#).

- [CMS MAC Proposed rule change](#) update – was open for public comment until 7.3.23. Waiting to hear whether rule will be modified and/or approved.

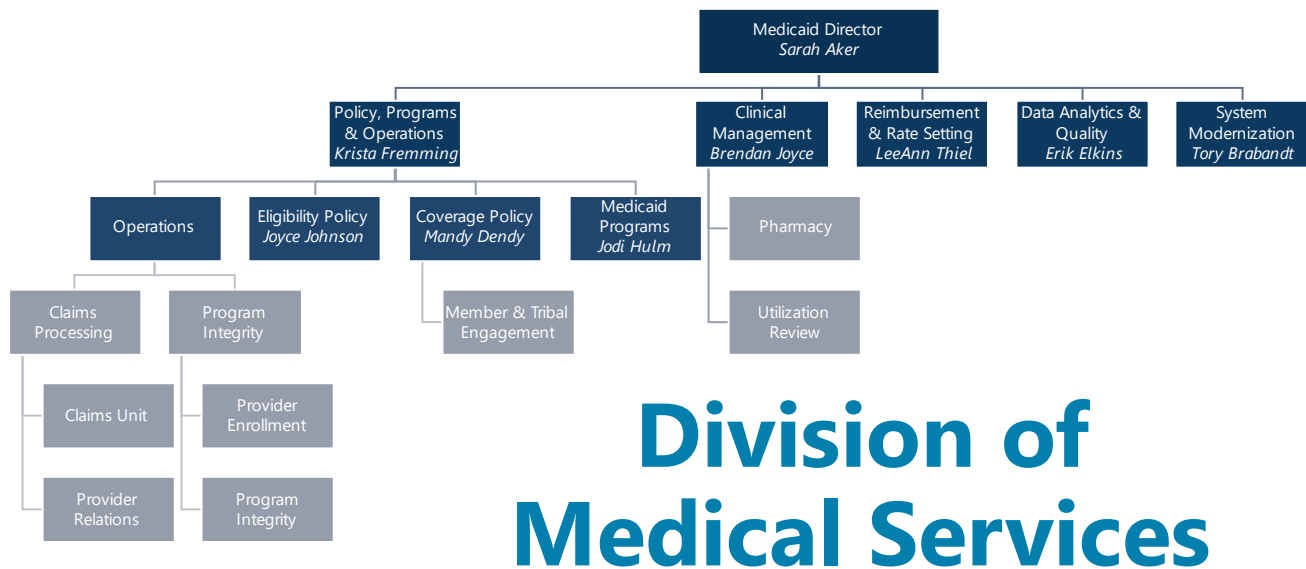
### MMAC Workgroup & Charter

- MMAC Charter Workgroup (thank you to Senators Lee & Mathern, Courtney Koebele, and Janelle Moos)
  - The Workgroup met three times and proposed changes to the current MMAC Charter. Members were sent proposed changes prior to the meeting. Mandy presented a high-level overview of the proposed changes. Proposed changes were discussed, and one phrasing change was made.
  - Janelle Moos moved to accept the changes and amend the Charter and Dr. Wehbi seconded the motion. No further discussion. Members voted to approve the Charter as presented and amended during the meeting. The amended charter will be finalized and posted on the [MMAC webpage](#).
- MMAC onboarding materials and exit survey workgroup
  - Members discussed having simple onboarding materials like the MMAC purpose, Charter, webpage, and maybe a 15-minute intro meeting with ND Medicaid before their first meeting as a member. Members also expressed they would like to be surveyed once or twice a year with simple questions such as “What do you find to be useful within the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee?” and “What could be improved?”
  - Poll – 100% of members polled would like onboarding materials/process for new members. A majority also voted to have a regular surveying process of current members.
    - Several members expressed interest in joining a temporary workgroup to develop the process/materials. Members will be asked to share their names with Mandy if they are interested in participating.
    - Mandy will work with any interested members regarding onboarding and member surveys and will present for discussion at the next meeting.
- [Unwinding of ND Medicaid continuous enrollment](#) update. Continuous enrollment ended March 31, 2023. Renewals began April 1<sup>st</sup> – *Joyce Johnson*. Joyce shared the [ND Medicaid renewals dashboard page](#) with members and walked them through the different pages. Available data are the number of Medicaid individuals due for review and the status of their reviews.
  - ND Medicaid is using some innovative methods to assist members with successfully completing the renewal process. We are using texts and emails to communicate with members about renewals, included an action needed statement on the front of renewal envelopes, and are using what we call *ex parte* renewals (procedure to renew a member’s Medicaid using information available to ND Medicaid and without member participation).
  - Medicaid and the ND Navigators are working to ensure members ineligible for Medicaid are referred to the Health Insurance Marketplace and can receive assistance in finding other health care coverage. For more information on the ND Navigators, see <https://ndcpd.org/NDnavigator/>.

- Renewal Process
  - Walkthrough of process using example of Medicaid member Frank.
    - Frank’s renewal month is October.
    - He will be sent his renewal paperwork in September.
    - It is due at the end of October.
    - Let’s say that Frank returns his paperwork/completes the process online by October 10<sup>th</sup>. His renewal should be reviewed and decided on.
    - If Frank does not return his paperwork by the end of October, his Medicaid will be “closed,” meaning Medicaid cannot be billed for Frank’s health care services.
    - If Frank returns his paperwork within 90 days from October 31<sup>st</sup> his renewal should be reviewed and decided on.
    - If Frank continues to be eligible for Medicaid, his Medicaid will be reopened.
    - If Frank does not return his paperwork within that 90-day period, Frank will have to submit a new (full) application for Medicaid to see if he is eligible.

Medical Services Division Updates

- ARPA (Home and Community Based Services) HCBS Spending Plans/Updates – *Candice McDaniel, Myers and Stauffer*
  - Candice presented a slide deck detailing updates to the American Rescue Plan Action (ARPA) HCBS spending plans.
  - Information about these funds appears online at <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/ARPA-HCBS-funds>.
- Medical Services leadership and functional areas chart



# Division of Medical Services

- State Plan Amendments
  - Referenced that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, most providers saw a 3% inflationary increase, see sections 48 & 49 of [HB 1012](#). Also referenced the [Public Notice - Medicaid State Plan Changes for July 1, 2023](#).
- Waiver Updates – [ND current Medicaid 1915\(c\) HCBS Waivers page](#)
  - Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver – *Sandi Erber*
    - Adult and Aging Services intends on drafting and submitting an amendment to the 1915 (c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver ND0273.R06.01.
    - The purpose of the amendment is to implement changes in services and programming approved during the 2023 legislative session and update language changes related to internal processes.
    - The amendment will:
      - implement the new service of Waiver Personal Care,
      - update the rate methodology for FPC to comply with FLSA,
      - update rate methodology for Adult Foster Care,
      - add retainer payments for Residential Habilitation and Community Support.
      - update internal processes related to the state’s unwinding activities, a result of the COVID-19, public health emergency (PHE), to allow for use of electronic signatures and visits by virtual means for the services of case management and Extended Personal Care, and
      - update language under homemaker services and change DHS to DHHS.
  - Traditional Individual with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities (IID/DD) HCBS Waiver – *Tina Bay*
    - The DD Waiver expires on 3/31/24.
    - DD Section staff have been preparing the renewal and shared with stakeholders on 8/14/23 some of the proposed changes. These include:
      - A limit increase from \$20,000 to \$40,000 for environmental modifications.
      - Participants will have the option to have self-directed and provider managed in home supports authorized at the same time.
      - Respite will be a stand-alone service.
    - Plan to have the waiver available for public comment by the middle of September.
    - A presentation was given explaining this proposed waiver changes on August 14<sup>th</sup>. You can view the presentation [here](#).
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) waiver – *Katherine Barchenger*
    - Submitted to CMS and looking for approval of November 1, 2023
    - Changes:    increase to age 18  
                  Adding 195 slots  
                  Adding services - Tutoring/social groups/rural differential to Service Management
    - Currently have 163 on waitlist

- Of the 23 that are currently receiving Voucher services 12 are on the waitlist and we will be reminding the remaining 11 families of the end date of voucher and the availability of applying to the waiver as we work with them over the next months.
- [ND Medicaid Autism Services webpage](#) with contact information.
- Medically Fragile HCBS waiver – *Katherine Barchenger*
  - Submitted to CMS and looking for approval being Oct 1, 2023
  - Changes: additional 25 slots  
Increase waiver service caps to \$25,300.00 per year
- Children’s Hospice HCBS waiver – *Katherine Barchenger*
  - approved for a 5-year renewal on 7/1/23.

### Discussion

- Meet *Sarah Aker* – ND’s new Medicaid Director. Sarah began as Director about a month ago coming from serving South Dakota as its Medicaid Director since 2021.
- Quality Update – *Stacy Chadwick*
  - Stacy Chadwick informed members about the Child and Adult Core Set measures and North Dakota’s progression towards meeting mandatory 2024 reporting requirements. We expect to see 2022 reporting results in September 2023.
  - Stacy gave a high-level overview of ND Medicaid’s Quality Strategy and how it aims to improve outcomes for focus populations.
  - ND Medicaid’s data dashboards for children and adult quality measures are on our [Data Dashboard page](#) along with other types of data.

### Did you Know? Unaccompanied Youth, Healthcare, and Medicaid - *Mandy Dendy, Coverage Policy Director*

- Mandy shared the North Dakota law allowing for unaccompanied homeless minors to consent to, contract for, and receive medical, dental, or behavioral health care. [N.D.C.C. 14-10-20](#).
- Unaccompanied youth may be considered “living independently” for Medicaid purposes. This means that they have:
  - lived separately and apart from both parents for at least 3 consecutive full calendar months after leaving the parental home,
  - continued to live separately and apart from both parents, and
  - not received support or assistance from either parent while living separately and apart.
- Individuals “living independently” do not fall under the Medicaid definition of “child.” [N.D. Admin. Code 75-02-02.1-01\(5\)](#).
- Parental income is not counted as being available to an individual “living independently.” [N.D. Admin. Code 75-02-02.1-34\(4\)](#).
- Unaccompanied homeless youth will generally qualify under Affordable Care Act Medicaid (ACA) and can apply on paper, using the Self-Service Portal (SSP), or with assistance.

Education Topic: Medicaid and Medicare – Meghan Thomas

- Meghan shared that there are four categories of individuals receiving Medicaid who need to apply for Medicare:
  - Individuals turning 65
  - Individuals who have been disabled for 24 months
  - Individuals with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
  - Individuals with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)
- In some cases, enrollment will be automatic and for the last two above-bulleted items there are certain timelines for application.
- Part D enrollment is not automatic, individuals will need to apply through the Social Security Administration.
- Medicaid can help with Medicare premiums through one of the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) and Social Security Income (SSI) Premium Assistance.
- Medicaid Expansion coverage ends at Medicare, but members may qualify for coverage under "traditional" Medicaid.
- Members with both Medicaid and Medicare coverage are referred to as dually eligible. There are benefits to members including: increased coverage of services, income that would have paid Medicare premiums freed up, and prescription drug benefits.

Next meeting date:

- November 21, 2023, 3-5pm CT via Microsoft Teams.
  - Will set the 2024 meeting calendar
    - Can we hold one in-person meeting?
  - Charter finalized – need to decide staggered terms
  - Review onboarding process and member surveys