



Anchorage

3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923
Main: 907.269.7800
Fax: 907.269.0060

Juneau

P.O. Box 110601
350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.3068

Alaska Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) Meeting

December 11, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm

Public summary of meeting and agenda review

MCAC board members, Board Chair Monk, and State of Alaska Department of Health (DOH) representatives raised, reviewed, and discussed the following topics in their December meeting. Eight current members attended the meeting, along with two nominated members.

- I. Division updates from Division of Health Care Services (HCS), Public Assistance (DPA), and Behavioral Health (DBH), specifically the Behavioral Health Roadmap.
 - a. Introduced Dr. Boston, positioned in the Commissioner's office (CO) who will be taking over from Dr. Goslin on the clinical review team in HCS and the MCAC.
 - b. Update from HCS regarding reducing provider enrollment backlog. HMS/Gainwell and Comagine trainings are scheduled for stakeholder engagement.
 - c. Update from Leah Van Kirk from the CO on the Behavioral Health Roadmap. Report will be published and will be out for public comment around the upcoming quarterly MCAC meeting.
 - d. Update from DPA, given by Deputy Commissioner Ricci regarding pausing disenrollments, and working with Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) on flexibility and assistance with pursuing manual disenrollments while improving technology for ex parte.
 - e. Update from department facilitator. Updates on proposed regulatory changes of neuropsychological testing reimbursement as was posed in the September 2023 meeting. Proposed 2024 quarterly meeting dates. Raised the ask for a representative from MCAC to sit on a workgroup with DOH.
- II. New member applications, John Solomon and Angela Michaud, were reviewed by the committee and will be sent to CO for approval.
 - a. Sherri Hinshaw and Victoria Kidal are ending their membership with the committee.
- III. Updates on MCAC workgroups.
 - a. Workgroup "Unclogging Alaska's Healthcare System" presented their progress and updated groups on meetings and continued research.
 - b. Workgroup "Medicaid Nurse Triage Line" updated group on their progress and hope to have actionable asks for the upcoming quarterly meeting.

- c. Workgroup “Remote Patient Monitoring” presented their findings and report.
 - i. Committee voted to send these recommendations to the CO for approval.

IV. Public comment

- a. Attorney from Alaska Legal Services Corporation in Fairbanks reported on issues with fair hearings and delays in determinations and disenrollments for public assistance, Medicaid, SNAP benefits, and heating assistance.
- b. Alaska Pharmacist Association provided context and updates on legislation passed (HB 145) to allow expanded scope for pharmacists and reimbursement by Medicaid as providers. There have been challenges in getting pharmacists in tribal health organizations and Federally Qualified Health Centers recognized by Medicaid.

V. Upcoming topics for MCAC’s consideration.

- a. A MCAC member expressed continued concern about the lack of neuropsychological testing reimbursement by Medicaid. Progress is being made and a more in-depth update will be provided next meeting.
- b. Chair expressed thanks and encouragement for the progress made with workgroups. If members have interest in forming a workgroup there is a specific process to follow.
- c. There will be continued follow-up on provider concerns, and monitoring of provider reimbursement issues at future meetings.
- d. Chair apologized on behalf of the MCAC for any challenges members of the public experienced with meeting passcodes in trying to access the meeting. These problems will be addressed in the future.
- e. Chair expressed support for the new Department facilitator role (Christal Hays). Committee members are encouraged to reach out to department facilitator with specific updates or agenda items for February meeting.
- f. Upcoming meeting dates for 2024: **February 12, June 10, September 9, December 9.**