

Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) – Q2 Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2026

3:30 - 5 PM

Facilitator: Jessica Oswald, Christal Hays

Attendees: Christal Hays, Jenn Carson, Alysa Wooden, Amanda Woody, Pamela Burton, Michael Baldwin, Kate Arvidson, Deb Foster, Heather (AK Legal Services), Tricia Skitt, Kathy Allely, Robert Lawrence, Lynne Keilman Cruz, Deb Etheridge, Emily Ricci, Becca Stovall, Crystal Flores

MAC Members: Chad Jensen, Matt Hirschfeld, Philip Hofstetter, Jen Griffis, Mary Middleton, Jessica Oswald, Susan Wheeler

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Jessica Oswald opened the meeting and introduced the primary objectives:

- Membership and bylaws review
- Annual report planning
- Department of Health (DOH) updates

2. Membership, Roles, and Bylaws Review

Key Points

- Updated bylaws (effective late 2025) establish:
 - Membership range: 7–13 members
 - Term length: 3 years, up to two consecutive terms
- Several members will term out within 4–6 months, creating a significant continuity risk.
- Without intervention, membership could drop to 3–4 members by end of 2026.

- Federal guidance requires public posting of MAC membership; DOH will reinstate listing unless members opt out.

Discussion

- Recruitment urgency emphasized; members encouraged to identify successors.
- Consideration raised to extend term lengths to improve continuity.
- Concern noted that simply extending terms delays, rather than resolves, turnover challenges.
- Importance of staggered transitions and succession planning highlighted.
- Requirement identified to include at least one Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC) member on MAC.

Decisions / Direction

- Proceed with active recruitment efforts immediately.
- Explore potential bylaw amendment for term extensions (requires formal process).
- Reinstate public posting of MAC membership and term dates.

Action Items

- Members to identify and recommend potential candidates.
- MAC Members to decide how to extend current terms, if applicable.
- DOH to update website with current membership and terms.
- BAC to nominate representative for MAC.

3. Annual Report Planning

Key Points

- Annual report is a new federal requirement, due July 2026.
- Report will include:
 - Summary of MAC activities
 - Workgroup outputs
 - Recommendations to DOH
- Survey results will inform evaluation of MAC effectiveness and engagement model.
- Materials for review include:
 - Medicaid enrollment and spending report (Feb 2026)

- Prior Medicaid annual reports

Discussion

- MAC role reaffirmed: policy input, program administration feedback, and beneficiary engagement.
- Acknowledgement of limited funding for in-person engagement, but importance of identifying needs regardless.
- Opportunity identified to involve BAC in report development.

Decisions / Direction

- Draft report to be developed and circulated for member feedback prior to July submission.

Action Items

- MAC members to compile draft annual report.
 - Members to review materials and provide input.
 - Incorporate workgroup outputs and recommendations.

4. Department of Health Updates

4.1 Division of Behavioral Health (DBH)

Key Updates

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration application submitted (April 1); decision pending.
- Transition to prospective payment system (daily rate model).
- Rate reform underway:
 - Benchmark rates with inflation adjustments
 - “Hold harmless” provisions
- Crisis continuum and youth service definitions under development.
- Behavioral Health Provider Service Organization contract awarded (Guidehouse).
- Technical assistance available for providers (revenue cycle, service development).

Discussion

- Clarification provided on transition of legacy grant funding:

- Reduction in CBHTR grants offset by new competitive grant programs (crisis, youth, adult services).
- Alignment with Medicaid funding requirements emphasized.

4.2 Senior and Disability Services (SDS)

Key Updates

- HCBS waiver renewals submitted to CMS; awaiting approval.
- Transition to interRAI assessment tool underway:
 - Crosswalk completed for current tools
 - User testing begins June
 - Launch targeted for October 1
- Parallel assessments will run ~1 year to ensure parity and accuracy.
- Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce campaign launched statewide.

Discussion

- Strong emphasis on cautious implementation to avoid disruptions in eligibility/services.
- Clarified that goal is accuracy and equity in assessments, not service reduction.
- Resource allocation model still under development.

4.3 Healthcare Services Division

Key Updates

- Fiscal agent (HMS/Gainwell) town halls available for provider support.
- New listserv launched for stakeholder communication.
- Provider Enrollment Module in development:
 - Increased automation
 - Fraud prevention enhancements
- Service Authorization Module procurement underway to meet federal timeliness requirements.

4.4 Division of Public Assistance (DPA)

Key Updates

- Online application (multi-program) launching mid-May:

- Mobile-friendly, dynamic form
- Document upload capability
- Designed to reduce incomplete applications
- Eligibility system modernization underway (modular rollout approach).
- Introduction of permanent plastic Medicaid cards:
 - No expiration dates
 - Reduces administrative burden and confusion

4.5 Commissioner Office Update

Key Updates

Legislative

- Complex Care Residential Homes bill advancing; urgency to pass this session.

Rural Health Transformation Program

- 1,800 Letters of Interest received
- Review process underway; decisions expected within ~2 weeks
- Implementation phase targeted for mid-May
- New staffing added to support program

Federal Policy (HR1)

- Major upcoming changes:
 - Citizenship eligibility changes (Oct 2026)
 - Community engagement requirements
 - 6-month eligibility redeterminations (Jan 2027; no exemption)
- System and policy planning in progress; awaiting CMS guidance (expected June).

5. Public Comment

- Inquiry regarding availability of past MAC reports:
 - Clarified that annual report is a new requirement.
 - Prior recommendation reports exist but are not publicly posted.

6. Key Themes and Takeaways

- Significant membership turnover risk requires immediate action.
- Annual report development is a major new responsibility.
- Multiple large-scale system and policy changes underway across DOH

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned following completion of updates and discussion.

Public