

NC Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

Meeting Minutes September 16, 2025

Virtual Meeting

BAC Members present:

Jonathan D'Angelo, Jenny Hobbs, Hannah Elliott, Marie Britt, Jessica Aguilar, Hannah Steer, Kadee Primus, Gwynneth Wildcatt, Annette Smith, Stephanie Pitts, Matthew Potter, Bee Thao, Janet McDaniel.

NC Medicaid Staff present:

Jay Ludlam, Melanie Bush, Kathy Batton, Hannah Fletcher, Katryn Horneffer and a host of other staff members attended via Teams.

Kathy Batton welcomed members to the inaugural BAC meeting, roll call was taken by Jennifer Platts. Kathy Batton introduced Hanna Fletcher, Survey Team Lead, Quality, Population Health and Evaluation (QPHE), to share information on the 2025 Standard Plan Performance Tool. Madison Shaffer introduced herself and explained the 2025 Standard Plan Comparison Tool.

Madison reviewed the tool, noting that it is divided into several domains that are visually displayed within the system. These domains allow users to view performance metrics and compare Standard health plans side by side. Madison explained that the star rating approach provides an accessible and visually appealing way to interpret data and assess performance, moving beyond simple data tables. She mentioned that Hannah Fletcher, with QPHE would present additional information on how the star ratings are determined and provide background on the underlying methodology.

Madison provided a brief overview of the development process, emphasizing collaboration with key stakeholders, including:

- The NC Medicaid Executive Team, to ensure the tool aligns with organizational missions, programmatic goals and objectives.
- The Quality and Evaluation Teams, who participated in design review and tool finalization.
- The NC Medicaid Enrollment Broker and the NC Medicaid Member Team, who contributed insights on language accessibility and anticipated member questions.
- Member focus groups, which were convened to evaluate the tool's utility, accessibility and visual organization.
- Standard health plans, which provided feedback, which was incorporated into the final design.

Madison concluded her remarks by turning the presentation over to Hannah, who explained the specifics of the star rating assignments and methodology.

Hannah defined key elements used in the tool, starting with the Standard Plan Average. For each performance measure, the rates for all five Standard Plans were added together and divided by five

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to determine the average. Hannah explained that the star rating assignments provide a clear and intuitive way to assess each plan's performance relative to the standard plan average. BAC members had a chance to ask questions and provide feedback on the Standard Plan Comparison Tool.

Jay Ludlam, Deputy Secretary of NC Medicaid, provided an overview of State Funding that was appropriated for NC Medicaid and explained the current state funding. Ludlam explained that the amount requested, an additional \$819 million is needed to operate the program and to provide all of the services that were provided the previous year, \$115 million was requested to run and operate the program and \$13 million for technology initiatives that Medicaid is required to have by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and stated that the amount was not granted. The General Assembly appropriated \$600 million, leaving a \$319 million shortfall.

Ludlam shared the funding challenges for NC Medicaid and explained the NC Medicaid Reductions that will take effect October 1, which include provider rate reductions and explained next steps. Jenny Hobbs, BAC member, noted that the MAC (Medicaid Advisory Committee) would be meeting the following week and that the General Assembly would also be in session. She suggested that the BAC consider sending a letter to the General Assembly introducing the committee, outlining its role and expressing support for continued funding of Medicaid.

Motion: Jenny Hobbs made a motion for the BAC to draft and send a letter to the General Assembly in support of Medicaid funding.

Vote: Jenny Hobbs called for a vote. All BAC members present voted "yes" by raising their hands on Microsoft Teams.

Result: The motion passed unanimously.

Katie Horneffer, Associate Director for NC Medicaid Strategy and Planning, provided a summary and update on the federal bill, H.R.1 (also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill). Katie stated the goal of the presentation was to show the extent of the changes and provided a timeline. Katie shared key changes from now until 2029. Katie explained the work or community engagement requirements and provided detailed information on work requirements. BAC members had an opportunity to ask questions.

Kathy Batton explained next steps for the BAC, which includes Part Three of Orientation and advised we would continue to keep everyone informed about any issues that arise. LaQuana added that as information is being shared and notices are sent out to reach out if members need any information or have any questions. Kathy Batton adjourned the meeting.