

**NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Health Benefits**



# **NC Medicaid Transformation Update**

**Jay Ludlam  
Assistant Secretary, NC Medicaid**

**Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) Meeting  
March 19, 2021**

# Agenda

## Official Launch of Managed Care Open Enrollment

- Key Milestones and Statistics
- Project Status
- Beneficiary Support, Education & Outreach
- Current Activities
- Provider Resources
- PHP Readiness

# Major Milestones

**March 1**

- **Soft Launch Call Center, website, mobile app live**

**March 15**

- **Managed Care Open Enrollment began**
- **Beneficiaries can use the website, mobile app and NC Medicaid Managed Care Call Center to find their doctor and select a health plan**

**April 12**

**Deadline for providers to submit contracts to PHPs for their information to be used in auto-enrollment**

**April 15**

- **Reminder postcards to be mailed to beneficiaries**
- **Ombudsman Go Live**

**May 14**

**Open Enrollment Ends**

**May 15**

- **Beneficiaries who have not chosen a health plan will be “auto-enrolled” in a plan and notified by mail**
- **Transition of care activities implemented**

**July 1**

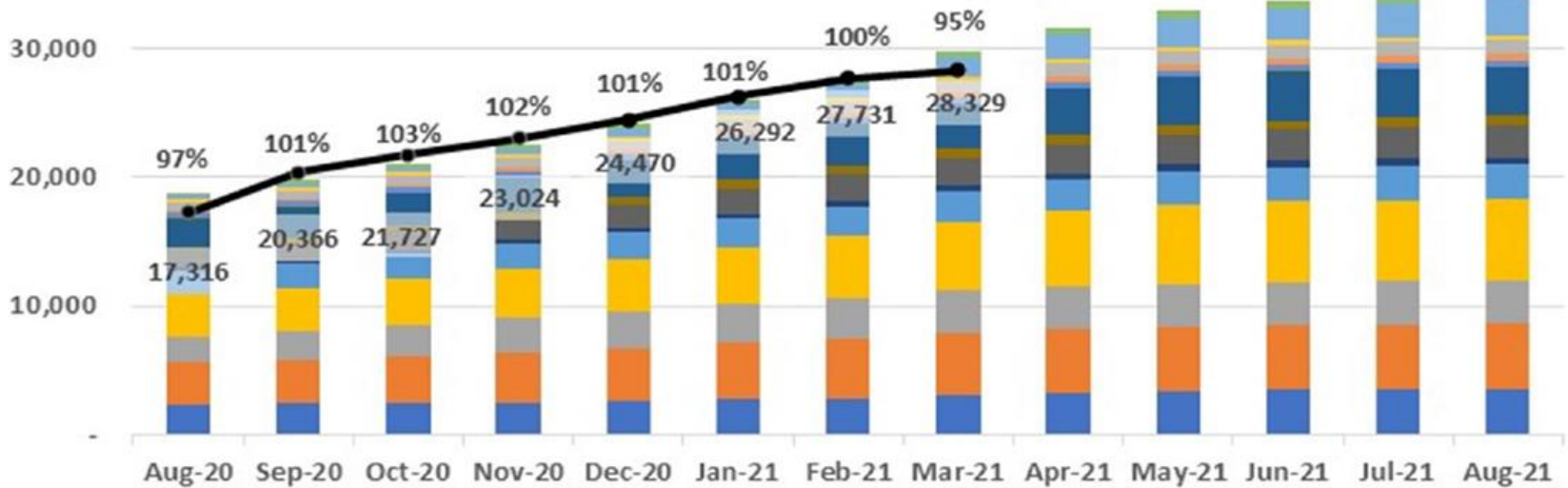
- **Medicaid beneficiaries start receiving care through Managed Care Providers**
- **Beneficiaries have 90 days to change their plan selection**

# OPEN ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

- Enrollments : **13,805** (as of 3.17.21)
- As of March 12:
  - 8,577 calls handled
  - 18,472 website visits
  - 2,235 chat sessions
  - 3,850 mobile app visits
- **More than 775,000 Enrollment Packets have been mailed to beneficiaries**

# Standard Plan Project Status

Program Story Points Planned and Earned by Business Unit



**Notes:**

- Hill Climber chart shows the relative level of effort earned to date compared to the relative level of effort planned (cumulative).
- The data reported in this week's status report is reflective of the information in Jira at the time the report was created.
- While overall Program Completion is ahead of target, there are still areas and items that are behind or trending behind.



# Focus on Beneficiary

## Resources

- Medicaid Contact Center
  - 888-245-0179
- Website updates and social media
  - <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation>
- Paid advertising
  - Radio, TV, web, social media (English and Spanish)



# Online Help Centers

## NC Medicaid Help Center

A resource for providers to research questions and submit inquiries, the Help Center is an online source of information about Managed Care, COVID-19, Medicaid and behavioral health services. You can also search to find answers to questions from the Help Center mailbox, webinars and other sources.

Medicaid Help Center:

[ncgov.servicenowservices.com/sp\\_ncmedicaid?id=kb\\_view\\_helpcenter](https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com/sp_ncmedicaid?id=kb_view_helpcenter)

## NC Medicaid Beneficiary Portal

An online portal for North Carolinians receiving or wanting to apply for Medicaid. The portal provides Medicaid resources in an easy-to-use web platform. The Help Center Assistant search feature guides users to topics of interest to them.

Medicaid Beneficiary Portal: [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/beneficiaryportal](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/beneficiaryportal)

# Current Activities to Support Managed Care & Tribal Option Launch

- **Beneficiary Focused Activities**
  - Beneficiary notices and enrollment, advertising, engagement & outreach
  - Updated Member Handbooks
  - End-to-end testing beneficiary information flows, transition of care processes, auto assignment and PCP assignment algorithm.
  - County DSS support approach, training sessions, and enrollment supports
- **Provider Related Activities**
  - PHP and provider contracting
  - Update call center scripting and conduct agent training for the NC Tracks Provider Call Center
  - Engagement & training to support providers through the transition
  - End-to-end test provider information data flows
- **Health Plan Focused Activities**
  - End-to-end test the capitation payment process.
  - PHP readiness reviews
  - PHP and Tribal Option hiring/rehiring of staff, including key personnel
  - PHPs contracting with sufficient providers and systems



# Provider Contracting & Payments

## Importance of contracting in advance of open enrollment

- **Beneficiaries may only select in-network (contracted) PCPs during open enrollment and health plans will assign beneficiaries to in-network providers only.**
- **Ability to earn per member per month (PMPM) payments through the Advanced Medicaid Home (AMH) program.**
- **Risk of being reimbursed at 90% of the current Medicaid fee for service rate and subject to additional prior authorizations.**

## Contracting after July 1, 2021

- **Providers encouraged to continue contract negotiations with health plans and finalize the contract as soon as possible.**

## Payments

- **DHHS-established rate floors for certain in-network providers**
- **PHPS must comply with Prompt Pay Standards**

# Technical Assistance and Practice Support: PHPs & Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)

AHEC and PHPs will both support the State's TA and Practice Support goals.

- Prior to Launch: AHEC will provide targeted training assistance to ensure providers are prepared to participate in Medicaid transformation initiatives.
- Prior to Launch: AHEC hosts Fireside Chats.
- Prior to Launch: AHEC leads the AMH Coaching Program.
- After Launch: AHEC will provider webinars that highlight Statewide PIPs.
- After Launch: AHEC will continue AMH Coaching Support
- After Launch: AHEC will host and support PHP Regional Quality Forums.
- ***After Launch: PHPs will supply quality data to practices (AMH & OBs)***
- ***After Launch: PHPs will provider practice support.***

# Provider Resources

- Webinar Trainings - DHHS and AHEC series to increase engagement with providers, practice managers, and quality managers.

Webinar Series	Schedule
<a href="#">Medicaid Managed Care Fireside Chat</a>	First Thursday of each month
<a href="#">Advanced Medical Home</a>	Second Thursday of each month
<a href="#">Clinical Quality</a>	Third Thursday of each month

- Access full schedule of webinars, recordings, slides and transcripts at [Medicaid Managed Care Webinar Series for Providers web page](#).
- Provider Ombudsman – resource to assist providers with issue resolution

Contact Information	
Phone	919-527-6666
Email	<a href="mailto:Medicaid.ProviderOmbudsman@dhhs.nc.gov">Medicaid.ProviderOmbudsman@dhhs.nc.gov</a>

# PHP Readiness Overview

## PHP READINESS

## KEY METRICS

### Policy and Process

**Readiness:** Measures PHP's ability to meet contractual deliverables and to operationalize the Managed Care Program including CMS-defined Readiness Review Areas.

**I. Contractual Deliverables:** Assessment of completion of contractual deliverables that DHHS will review and/or approve as part of Managed Care oversight activities. Examples of these deliverables include PHP operating plan, marketing materials, clinical coverage policies, and annual compliance plans.

**II. Readiness Review:** Completion of DHB administered desktop and onsite readiness review, which assesses the PHP's ability and capacity to operationalize the Managed Care design in the CMS-defined Business Areas

### Provider Network

**Readiness:** Measures each PHP's provider network coverage in the contracted regions.

**III. Provider Network Coverage:** Assessment of the adequacy of the PHP's provider networks in key specialty areas, including Hospital, Advanced Medical Homes, OB/GYN, NEMT, and Behavioral Health.

**Technology Readiness:** Measures each PHP's progress with technology testing activities and supporting technical operations as we approach Managed Care Go-live.

**IV. Testing:** Success execution of DHB-defined test scenarios, including assessment of % complete versus planned, defects, and speed of resolution  
**V. Technology Operations & Command Center:** Assessment of PHP ongoing technology and operational issues, including late file submissions, issues affecting operations, and/or technology related incidents and problems that have not been resolved by the expected timeframe driven by priority classification.

# Health Plan Contacts & Materials

- **Access Health Plan contacts and resources by visiting:**
  - <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation/health-plans/health-plan-contacts-and-resources>
- **Available resources include:**
  - Provider manuals
  - Provider contract templates
  - Member handbooks

# Challenges to Consider

- **COVID-19**
- **Provider Contracting**
- **Legislative Changes**
- **State Budget**