

NC Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2024

Virtual Meeting

MCAC Members present:

Gary Massey, MCAC Chair, Keshia Rooks, Brandon Wilson, Benjamin Smith, Laura Veach, LaSonia Melvin Barnett, Jennifer Green, Stephen A. Small, Ivan Belov, Kadee Primus, Vickie Bradley, Jenny R. Hobbs, Gabriela Plasencia, Don Holloman and Jean Anderson.

NC Medicaid Staff present:

Jay Ludlam, Melanie Bush, Adam Levinson, Kathy Batton, Nicholas Bailey and a host of other staff members attended via Teams.

Chairman Massey called the MCAC meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, welcoming everyone to the third quarter MCAC Meeting and allowing the new MCAC members to introduce themselves. The roll call was taken with a quorum declared by Jennifer Platts. The meeting minutes from June 21, 2024, were accepted by members.

Jay Ludlam, Deputy Secretary of NC Medicaid, mentioned the agenda for the meeting would be different than what is normally presented to discuss the new MAC and BAC committees and would not have a budget or enrollment update with formal slides.

He announced that 547,642 beneficiaries have been added to Medicaid since expansion launched Dec. 1, 2023. He reminded the committee that the cost of Medicaid expansion does not come from the North Carolina General Fund, rather the program is paid through federal receipts and 90% of the cost is covered by the federal government and 10% through hospital assessment.

Additionally, Ludlam announced that the Children and Family Specialty health plan was awarded to Healthy Blue, and we are in the process of establishing and understanding the work required to be prepared and ready to go live with the new health plan. Healthy Blue has 45 days after the award to present the plan.

Adam Levinson, Chief Financial Officer, NC Medicaid, informed members there is typically a standard set of enrollment and financial slides to present to help track each quarter through the year and how the program is performing against the budget.

Ludlam shared as part of the state directed payment program authorized by the legislature within the Medicaid expansion package last year hospitals were offered two eligibility tiers, all 99 hospitals chose the higher payment. As part of the negotiation, hospitals agreed to begin modifying their medical debt relief policies to make them more friendly for consumers who might have medical debt.

Policies are being designed and implemented by the hospitals with the expected impact of about \$4 billion and approximately two million individuals.

Kathy Batton, Communication Manager, NC Medicaid, provided an update on the planning and execution phases of the Medicaid Advisory Committees and Beneficiary Advisory Council (MAC/BAC).

Phase 1 (Planning):

The focus is to develop proposed membership and meeting requirements, draft the application and create a recruitment and engagement workplan. This phase includes the review of applications and selection of members for the MAC/BAC.

Phase 2 (Execution):

Set to begin in Spring 2025, this phase will involve orientation for new members and the inaugural meetings for both the MAC and BAC.

Kathy also provided an overview of membership requirements, selection guidelines and the application process. She highlighted the deadline of July 9, 2025, for finalizing bylaws and the recruitment process. Additionally, she noted the existing Medicaid Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) structure could be adapted to meet the requirements of the new committees. Information on meeting frequency and format was also shared.

Nicholas Bailey, Deputy Director of Quality, NC Medicaid, provided an update on the NC Medicaid Quality Strategy. Key points included the federal requirements for state Medicaid managed care quality strategies, which mandate NC Medicaid draft and implement a written strategy to assess and improve the quality of health care and services delivered by both NC Medicaid Managed Care and NC Medicaid Direct. This strategy must be reviewed and updated at least every three years and made available for public comment prior to submission to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Nicholas also presented North Carolina's updated Quality Strategy, which serves as a roadmap for using managed care infrastructure to drive improvements in health and health care. He highlighted the state's emphasis in addressing health disparities through updated aims, goals and objectives. The strategy includes specific requirements the state must meet to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

He concluded with a summary of key updates to the Quality Strategy and a timeline for the review, submission and publication of the updated document.

Trish Farnham, representing the NC Coalition on Aging, presented an update on the Direct Care Workforce. During her update, she highlighted PHI's five pillars of job quality, recognized relevant initiatives supported by the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and discussed the underlying factors contributing to the direct care workforce crisis. Additionally, she mentioned the upcoming Coalition's 2024 Symposium.

Chairman Massey adjourned the meeting with a reminder of the next MCAC meeting Dec. 6, 2024, which will be a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance available at the McKimmon Center and virtual via Microsoft Teams.

These minutes are a synopsis of the MCAC meeting topics. All items are an update of the NC Medicaid program since the last meeting. Available presentations may be viewed for more details on the MCAC webpage at medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/meetings-notices/committees-and-work-groups/medical-care-advisory-committee notices/committees-and-work-groups/medical-care-advisory-committee.