



South Dakota
Department of
Social Services

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

700 GOVERNORS DRIVE

PIERRE, SD 57501-2291

PHONE: 605.773.3495

FAX: 605.773.5246

WEB: dss.sd.gov

**South Dakota Medicaid
Thursday, July 23, 2026
Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Medicaid Advisory Council (MAC) Attendees

Dr. David Basel, Dr. Jennifer Haggar, Erik Nelson, Alan Solano, Julie Kopp, Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Jerilyn Church, Pam VanMeeteren,

Could not attend: Micki Donnelson, Beth Dokken, Darren Crowe, Dr. Karli Williams

Other Attendees

Matthew Ballard, Dr. Clarissa Barnes, Ashley Lauing, Heather Petermann, Mary Johnle, Rebecca Gervais-Larson, Ben May, Aaliya Jones, Kate Derrick, Vicki Gerrits, Ricki Le, Jeremy Daniel, Jody Crowther

Welcome and Overview

Ashley Lauing, Policy Strategy Manager with South Dakota Medicaid (DSS), welcomed the MAC members. Heather Petermann, Medicaid Director, DSS, thanked the MAC members for their feedback and guidance.

MAC Meeting Minutes

The MAC members reviewed the minutes and did not have suggested edits. The April 2026 MAC minutes can be found on [the MAC website](#).

Annual Report

Ashley Lauing presented the annual report overview and addressed any changes that may have been given prior. After no suggested edits, Ashley asked for a motion to approve the annual report. The annual report will be posted on [the MAC website](#).

- Julie Kopp, motioned to approve the annual report
 - o Dr. David Basel seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) Meeting Overview

Ben May, MAC Coordinator, reported the BAC meeting covered the following topics:

- CHIP state plan goals
- HR1 website updates
- Discussed the importance of feedback and the value of outside perspectives.

State Plan Amendments

Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, DSS; reviewed state plans amendments. Information can be found on [the MAC website](#). Dr. Barnes, Chief Medical Officer, DSS walked the committee through the PACT quality payment details. Dr. Basel indicated that the measures aligned well with what Avera is focused on. Great Plains Tribal Health expressed interest in discussing the measures further as they currently use GPRA measure, but are considering transitioning to HEDIS measures. Dr. Barnes indicated she would be happy to discuss further and that measures for when PACT formally starts in 2028 are still to be determined.

Comments/Questions:

There was committee discussion regarding the Care Connect program and the rate rebase of the PMPM tier payments.

- What portions of patients are in each tier of Care Connect, what is the volume impact?
 - The tiers are reflective of patient complexity. The number of patients in each tier is included in the Medicaid dashboard:
<https://dss.sd.gov/keyresources/statistics.aspx>.
- Looking at 2024 and 2025, January seems like an outlier, what is that related to?
 - We recently started re-tiering individuals. That is done in January, which is where you see that shift in data.

HR1 updates

Mary Johnle, Program Administrator, DSS, showed updates related to the [HR1 dedicated webpage](#).

Comments/Questions:

- You use the term notification by November 1st. What is the notification you are using?
 - It depends on what the person signs up for, which could be mail, email, or text notification.
- I believe that the navigation to this information on the website is difficult to obtain.
 - Starting in mid-August, there will be a banner on the main DSS landing page directing individuals to it.
- What does the state have in place to ensure that they notify everyone?
 - The State will send out letters to recipients in the affected aid categories per CMS requirements.
- What should we be telling recipients when it comes to updating their information?
 - Contact the local office for any questions or to update information.
- Does the state get a notification if someone has an undeliverable address?
 - Yes, many have a forwarding address.
- Is the text opt-in the only option and do they have to have a BEES account?
 - Yes, they have to have a BEES account and opt-in to receive text messages from DSS.
- Is there a way for a client working with a family member, that they can add information for the family member?

- Navigators and others helping recipients can fill out an EA211 form to authorize release of information.
- Should we refrain from asking for documentation for tribal members?
 - At this time, the State does not anticipate seeking documentation for tribal members.
- Could a quick decision tree be possible? A way for the person to have information they can walk through to know their standpoint.
 - The State will look into this option. Who the requirements apply to is listed on the website today.
- Is there a way to identify if a customer is subject to work requirements or other HR1 related items?
 - Providers can view the recipient's aid category on the provider portal. BEES will have a CE page that will show what coverage group the recipient is enrolled in. It will also indicate if someone is a specified excluded individual or if they meet a mandatory exception. If neither of those, it'll show their community engagement hours and if they are meeting the requirement.
- Is there a community engagement information tab on the HR1 website?
 - Yes, there is a community engagement tab, and it shows what qualifies for community engagement.
- Will you be sending a letter to guardians of disabled individuals if they are exempt?
 - We do want people to look at the website and call the local office with any questions. We are not planning a mailing to individuals who are not subject to community engagement.

Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Plan

Matthew Ballard reviewed the status of the Medicaid RHT initiatives. Heather Petermann addressed the Rural Health Information Grant Awards.

Comments/Questions:

- Will all of the awards and applications be posted online?
 - After the contracts are executed, redacted versions of the proposals will be made available online. Proposals not selected for award will not be made public per the State's procurement rules.

Program Integrity

Rebecca Gervais-Larson discussed program integrity efforts across South Dakota as it pertains to provider enrollment, claims processing, national reviews and state reviews and the methods that are used to ensure accurate information. The State consistently achieves good results on our national reviews.

Juvenile Justice Targeted Case Management

Ben May provided an update on the Juvenile Justice Targeted Case Management efforts.

Comments/Questions:

- How long do you envision these youth in the carceral setting take to transition back into the home?
 - The length youth are held in the carceral setting from arrest to release varies greatly across the state based on a number of factors. The average length of stay is around 11 days.
- What success metric are you monitoring?
 - Metric 1 is to develop a robust provider network and ultimately show that services are being provided by the end of 2026. One challenge to measuring success is that there is not a unified carceral setting data source/database.

Public Comment

- Avera Behavioral Health brought up concerns related to prior authorizations for anti-psychotic medication. They indicated the current policy is causing delays and advocated for changes to the policy. Dr. Barnes indicated she would connect with them in advance of the next Pharmacy & Therapeutics meeting to discuss changes.
- Regarding program integrity - Services that are high risk, are a list of those services available on the website?
 - Yes, the provider enrollment page has a chart of the taxonomy codes and the associated risk level.

Closing Remarks

Ashley Lauing concluded the meeting by thanking the MAC members for attending the meeting and providing valuable feedback. If MAC members have any questions, they are welcome to reach out via email or a phone call to discuss. Please also email Ashley for any agenda requests.

Future Meetings:

- 10/22/2026 – Pierre – Kneip Building
- 01/28/2027 – Virtual