



South Dakota
Department of
Social Services

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DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

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**South Dakota Medicaid
Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Beneficiary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Welcome and Overview

Ashley Lauing, Policy Strategy Manager with South Dakota Medicaid shared a brief introduction to the Beneficiary Advisory Council.

Medicaid Overview

Ashley Lauing shared a Medicaid Overview presentation. Slides can be found on the [Beneficiary Advisory Council website](#).

Discussion and Questions

- BAC Member asked how does the prior authorization team have the credentials or more information than the provider that requested the service?
 - The prior authorization nurse team all report to the Medicaid Medical Director who is a physician. The nurses review request to ensure requirements are met that the clinical needs of the recipient meet the criteria that allows SD Medicaid to cover the service. It is a common practice to have prior authorization to ensure the service is medically necessary and meets the regulations of the coverage.
- Is an explanation always provided and not just a yes or no?
 - Yes, there is feedback provided, and additional options often shared. Decisions are also appealable.
- BAC Member asked if someone has a PCP, and they become straight fee-for-service and then go to having a PCP again, do they always have to have a PCP?
 - Certain recipient groups are required to participate in the PCP program. Certain groups are exempt from participating in the PCP program for various reasons, primarily because their care is managed by another entity such as a nursing facility or an HCBS waiver.
- BAC Member shared that having a PCP is sometimes a barrier to receiving a referral for care or seeking other treatment.
 - Medicaid is aware that navigating PCP referral requirements can be challenging and is working towards modernizing the care management programs. The BAC will be able to collaborate with Medicaid agency to improve the care management design.

Bylaws

Ashley Lauing shared that a link to the [Bylaws](#) was included in the welcome letter and are required. BAC members shared that they would like to wait until the next meeting to vote and approve the bylaws.

Ashley also shared that some individuals will need to serve a one-year term, a two-year term, or a three-year term. CMS requires that we replace only a portion of our BAC every year so that we don't encounter a year where everyone is brand new.

Ashley Lauing shared that we are needing two BAC members to be official representatives on the Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) and represents the BAC on the MAC. Almost all BAC members indicated interest in serving on MAC.

Discussion and Questions

- BAC Member asked if we chose one year, could we come back and apply in the future?
 - Yes, you can, you just can't serve a consecutive term.
- BAC Member asked what is the breakdown of how many one-year terms, how many two-year terms, and how many three-year terms?
 - For the initial BAC, SD Medicaid is needing two one-year members, two two-year members, and three three-year members.
- BAC Member asked what does the time commitment look like for the MAC?
 - The time commitment will be the same and many of the topics will be similar to the BAC. They require quarterly meetings, and the MAC meetings must always be held after the BAC meetings. For both the BAC and MAC meetings, the state has made a commitment to provide BAC and MAC members with research and background information on topics we will be discussing and will be sending out agendas in advance.
- BAC Member asked if BAC members could sit in on the next MAC meeting and see if they are interested.
 - Yes, BAC members are welcome to attend any MAC meeting as a member of the public. MAC meetings are open to the public.

BAC Public Notice Opt-Out Form

Ashley Lauing explained how BAC members can opt out of having their name listed in any public facing documents or meeting minutes. Ashley shared that this form will be brought to the October meeting and can also be emailed out as well.

BAC Travel Reimbursement/Travel Discussion

Ashley Lauing shared that committee members can be reimbursed for travel expenses for the meetings. A [W-9 and banking information](#) will be needed. SD Medicaid does have a form to complete and will bring it to the October meeting.

Closing Remarks

Heather Petermann wrapped up the meeting sharing her appreciation for everyone's participation and shared that if there are any questions to please reach out. She also shared that she appreciated individuals reaching out to ask questions and would like

BAC members to continue to reach out with input and to continue to share questions. Heather shared that Medicaid will continue to reach out to the BAC members regarding challenges and if there are topics that BAC members would like to see addressed, please raise those concerns as that is the point of this group and helps SD Medicaid to do our work even better.

Future Meetings:

- 10/23/2025 – Pierre, SD
- 01/22/2026 – Virtual
- 04/26/2026 – Rapid City, SD
- 07/23/2026 – Sioux Falls, SD
- 10/22/2026 – Pierre, SD