

**South Dakota Department of Social Services
Medicaid Tribal Consultation Meeting Minutes
10/24/2023**

Attendees

Jessie Gourneau, Kristar Shouldis, Vanessa Palmier, Nico Sheppard, Austin Gomez, Dr. Cherie Farlee, Lisa Schlosser, Jill Myers, Samantha Hynes, Kathi Mueller, Kara Peery, Renae Hericks, Valerie Kelly, Matthew Ballard, Ellen Durkin, Claudine Bengay, Travis Johnson, Stephanie Iron Cloud, Janelle Cantrell, Nicole Whitewolf, Vicki D.

Welcome and Introductions

Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger, Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Interim Medicaid Director, Department of Social Services (DSS) welcomed the group and everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Review Minutes and Updates from July 2023 Meeting

Ashley Lauing, Policy Strategy Manager, Division of Medical Services, DSS reviewed the minutes and indicated that minutes for the meeting can be found online on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Brenda led a discussion on the Tribal Consultation meeting structure and the consultation process. Consultation between state government and tribal governments is a key element of the Medicaid program. Brenda indicated consultation can also be requested outside the quarterly tribal consultation meetings and that tribes should reach out to Ashley Lauing at Ashley.Lauing@state.sd.us with requests.

Quarterly Report of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures

Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, DSS provided an overview of the expenditures report and changes made to the report as requested at the last meeting. Quarterly reports of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures can be found online on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

- Lisa Schlosser inquired about shared savings payments and benefits to the tribes.
 - Participating providers with a signed shared savings agreement with IHS are paid a portion of those savings.
 - The State has also used the savings to invest in Medicaid coverages that help Medicaid recipients including American Indians enrollees. These investments include coverage of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for adults. For tribes who operate SUD programs, this becomes an additional revenue source as well. Community Health Worker services were also added to the state plan based on the state savings. Targeted rate increases were also implemented for a number of services.
 - In addition, DSS hired a nurse practitioner and care coordination nurses positions that are also considered IHS employees through an intergovernmental personnel

agreement. These staff members help facilitate care coordination between IHS and other providers and are able to assist IHS units with other projects.

- Alex Arroba asked if there are care coordination agreements that IHS is not a party to.
 - IHS is always part of the care coordination agreements.
- A question was asked whether all aid categories full coverage?
 - No, South Dakota Medicaid still has some limited coverage groups, a list of coverage groups can be found [here](#).

State Plan Amendments

Renae Hericks, Policy and Programs Manager, Division of Medical Services, DSS provided an overview of the current state plan amendments (SPAs) in Tribal Consultation. All SPA documents can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Medicaid Expansion/PHE Unwinding

Kara Peery, Division of Economic Assistance, DSS, and Brenda provided a brief update on Medicaid Expansion including eligibility and enrollment and PHE Unwinding. Additionally, Kara highlighted some slides from the new [data dashboard](#) located online. More information can be found on the slides on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

- Vanessa Palmier asked whether the online or in-person application is faster?
 - Both application types have approximately the same processing time. Online may be slightly faster in some circumstances. The federal requirement for claims processing is 45-days and DSS processes applications much quicker than this. Coverage is effective the first day of the month the individual applies if determined eligible with possibility of up to 90 days of retroactive coverage.
- On the application, page 4 question 14 about hospital bills from last 3 months, what determines retroactive coverage?
 - Supporting documentation must be submitted for the months an individual is requesting retroactive coverage for. If the approval letter does not have back-dated coverage, the recipient call their benefits specialist to discuss further. Retroactive coverage only applies to months in which the recipient is eligible.
- Can you explain predicted income?
 - If an individual is recently employed and lacks paystubs, DSS looks at potential income based on documentation from their employer and uses that to estimate their income.
- Alex Arroba asked if retroactive coverage is denied does the letter sent to the recipient include contact information for a benefits specialist?
 - Yes, it will generally list a benefits specialist. Larger communities like Sioux Falls and Rapid City do not list a specific individual, but list contact information for the intake team.

Pregnancy Program Update

Valerie Kelly, Pregnancy Health Home Manager, Division of Medical Services, DSS led a discussion and provided updates on the new maternal/pregnancy program DSS is working to implement. Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Valerie asked for feedback regarding barriers to care:

- Vanessa Palmier indicated younger, single mothers may have concerns about judgement.
- Claudine Begay spoke to challenges connecting woman to care and confidentiality issues that inhibit communication between providers and maternal programs. She also highlighted Rosebud's maternal health program.
- Nico Sheppard indicated they encounter challenges with a general lack of providers who do not seem interested in taking additional Medicaid recipients.

Valerie then asked members present what they would like to see as included in the program. Discussion included the following:

- Incentives for providers:
 - The current draft reimbursement methodology includes additional payments for completion of 7 prenatal visits and a postpartum visit.
- Incentives for moms:
 - Incentives for moms such as gift cards, diapers, wipes, etc. for attending appointments could be a solution. An incentive program such as this would satisfy the current draft barriers to care initiative requirement.
- Mental health services are a need and there are currently challenges to access services due to provider shortages.
- Mobile clinics could be used to connect women to services.

Attendees were asked to provide feedback on provider qualifications:

- What is the intent to define sufficient staffing standards?
 - DSS is working on defining what is required in relation to the care coordination PMPM. This could be a staffing requirement or requirements regarding the level of care coordination required.
- What happens if a facility is unable to use the HIE?
 - If providers are not able to use HIE, it will not impact availability to enroll in program.
- If someone was in a health home, and they are moved to pregnancy program will that reduce the health home reimbursement amount?
 - Pregnant women will be enrolled in the new program. Generally, OB providers are not part of the current health home. Historically, most pregnant women that

appear eligible for the current health home program have been a tier 2, which aligns with the payment methodology for the new program. The new program also includes additional payments beyond the PMPM.

Coverage changes: Matthew Ballard presented updates on coverage changes effective October 1, 2023. These changes can be found [here](#).

- Vanessa Palmier inquired about locating enrolled dental providers.
 - Medicaid enrolled providers are listed on www.insurekidsnow.gov. Unless it is a pediatric dentist the providers generally serve both children and adults. Recipients and providers can also outreach delta dental at 1-877-841-1478. Delta Dental's care coordinators can be contacted at sdmedicaid@detladentalsd.com.

Tribal Reports

- Dr. Farlee stated they work with a lot of young women and she would like to see incorporation of education regarding the importance of prenatal care in the new pregnancy program.

Indian Health Services and Urban Indian Health Reports

- Oyate indicated they are starting to provide transportation and billing for community transportation with two new drivers. They also have two new staff on the benefits team which will be helping with public outreach events.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Upcoming Meetings -2024

- 01/23/2024 – at Cheyenne River IHS in Eagle Butte, SD. A remote option may be available.
- 04/26/2024
- 07/23/2024
- 10/23/2024