



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES  
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**South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Gloria Mesteth, Mary Bellecourt, Kathie St. John, Janelle Cantrell, Kristar Shouldis, Vanessa Palmier, Vicki Palmreuter, Traci Seaberg, Mariah Frost, Tiffany Larson, Travis Johns, Stephanie Iron Cloud, Nico Sheppard, Warren Buck Elks, Mike RedCloud, Deborah Charge On Him, Cathy Jeffries, Kristin McNeely, Ramona Simon, Lisa Schlosser, Dennis Johnson, Sara Decoteau, Renae Hericks, Sheila Van Kuren, Matthew Ballard, Heather Petermann, Ashley Lauing, Caitlin Clarey, Misty Black Bear, Bobby Jo Kraft, Kathi Mueller, Mary Johnle

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Ashley Lauing, Policy Strategy Manager, Department of Social Services (DSS), Division of Medical Services (DMS) welcomed the group, and everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

**Review Minutes from the April 2024 Meeting:**

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

**Tribal Reports:** None

**IHS/UIH/Tribal 638 Reports:**

Nico Sheppard, Oyate Health Center (OHC), indicated Oyate is continuing to expand their application process assistance and investing in wireless routers to accommodate the BEES system.

Ramona Simon, CEO of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Tribal Health Department, provided an update regarding their four clinics which are all now operational. Women's Health is now funded for the next three years, and the master health contract will be ready for submission soon. They are in the final phases of design for a sixteen-bed detox center. A nurse practitioner is starting in October, and they continue to search for one more to hire. They also are working to expand vaccination opportunities into the community. They will be installing cameras and security systems at all their clinics as well as have power backup units to ensure that refrigerated medications are protected.

**Quarterly Report of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures:**

Matthew Ballard provided an overview of the expenditures report. Quarterly reports of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures can be found online on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Tiffany Larson asked if Dental claims could be broken out separately on future reports. Matthew advised that we take that back to our data team to attempt to add that to future reports.

Lisa Schlosser asked if the Care Coordination is quarterly or cumulative. Ashley Lauing indicated that it is cumulative.

Lisa Schlosser asked if we provide information about what the state pays to providers in shared saving payments. Matthew advised the state plan amendment reflects that information. It is available online on the state plan page of the website. <https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/medicaidstateplan.aspx>.

**State Plan Amendments (SPA):**

Rena Hericks, Policy Manager, DSS, DMS reviewed SPAs currently in Tribal Consultation along with those currently with CMS. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Tiffany Larson asked for clarification regarding the 1115 waiver for Urban Indian Health clinics. Matthew advised that CMS has indicated that CMS has indicated they will not approve the waiver due to lack of authority to authorize the request.

Lisa Schlosser asked for clarification regarding the changes to the substance use disorder coverage. Rena clarified that a new SPA had to be submitted due to the previous authority sunseting. The SPA restores the coverage.

**Medicaid Update Doula Coverage Update:**

Matthew Ballard presented updates that were made to Doula Coverage. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Lisa Schlosser asked for clarification on what a trained practitioner is. Matthew advised that it is similar to a Community Health Worker (CHW) or Community Health Representative (CHR), in that the doulas are not clinical individuals. Doulas are laypersons who have experience and training to support individuals during their pregnancy.

Tiffany Larson asked if there is licensing or training offered for doula certification. Matthew advised that the plan is to have approved certifying organizations. The goal is for doulas to eventually be under an oversight body that does state credentialing.

Lisa Schlosser asked what the reimbursement for doulas would look like. Matthew advised that it would be similar to the CHW services rate and there would be a flat fee for attendance at labor and delivery.

Tiffany Larson asked if the need for these types of services is significant. Matthew shared that this service that could help improve health outcomes and compliment the Pregnancy Program initiative.

Tiffany Larson asked for clarification regarding the timeline for this being implemented. Matthew said that the anticipated implementation is the winter of 2024, pending programming.

Sara Decoteau asked for clarification as to what extent the referring medical provider oversees the service. Matthew advised that the service requires a referral from a physician or other licensed practitioner, but they do not have to review and approve the service plan.

A question was asked if there is a plan to provide training to support cultural preference. Matthew responded that the service doulas are not employed by Medicaid and the training is provided by external organizations. IHS and tribal 638s would be able to hire and bill for doula services.

Mariah Frost asked if doulas would offer night nursing and other assistance to help new parents. Matthew advised that SD Medicaid could look at this more closely, but to date, it has not been contemplated as part of our coverage.

**HCBS Waiver Discussion:**

Caitlin Clarey and Misty Black Bear with the Department of Human Services provided an overview of HCBS services.

In response to a question regarding referrals to Dakota at Home, Misty Black Bear advised that there are administrative rules in place that define what type of reporting and information sharing can be provided. These rules were slightly modified on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Eligibility and Billing Discussion:**

Vanessa Palmier asked for clarification regarding aid categories 40 and 46, sharing that they understood that the recipient must be classified as aid category 46 if pregnant.

Mary Johnle explained the differences between the two aid categories as they apply to time limitations, overall Medicaid benefit coverage, and pregnancy coverage.

Kristar Shouldis and Vanessa Palmier shared concerns regarding suspension in coverage in various circumstances and when coverage restarts. Ashley Lauing and Mary Johnle recommended that the recipient advise Medicaid as soon as possible regarding any changes, updates to personal information, and other relevant items that could impact their coverage. Keeping contact information up to date will help address challenges experienced with returned mail notifications and correspondence.

**Public Input:**

- None

**Next Meetings:**

- 10/23/2024 – Pierre, SD