



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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## **South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation Minutes**

### **Attendees:**

Natalia Montclair, Monique Runnels, Christine Olson, Alexia Zeigler, Stephanie Yellow Hammer, Ellen Durkin, Nico Sheppard, Marissa Figueroa, Vanessa Palmier, Traci Seaberg, Jory Farmer, Angie Oujiri, Leah Belgarde, Raylene Miner, Katherine Williams, Deborah Fast Wolf, Travis Johnson, Lisa Schlosser, Latoya Keepseagle, Megan Long, Vicki Palmreuter, Bonnie Cromwell, Waysha White Face, Dalene Bettelyour, Sixtina Stewart, Heather Petermann, Renae Hericks, Matthew Ballard, Ashley Lauing, Mary Johnle, Carrie Johnson, Kara Perry

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Heather Petermann, Medicaid Director, 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](#).

### **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](#).

### **State Plan Amendments (SPA):**

Renae 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](#).

Latoya Keeps Eagle asked how DMS determines how the section “impact to tribes” is determined. Medicaid conducts tribal consultation for all SPAs. Tribal impact is based on an analysis of the changes. Renae also explained the communication process for SPAs including a tribal listserv that is sent. Renae and Ashley provided information on how to sign up for the tribal listserv and how to send the information to other tribal members.

Katherine Williams commented about the care coordination and coordination services they provide and importance of the conversations had during tribal consultation.

### **Juvenile Justice CAA 5121:**

Ashley Lauing, Policy Strategy Manager, DSS, provided an overview of this program and the changes of coverage for incarcerated juveniles effective January 1, 2025. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Bonnie Cromwell asked for clarification on the process of notification to the state when a juvenile is incarcerated. Ashley Lauing stated that DMS is working with different institutions across the state to determine the process.

Leah Belgard asked what services will be covered services for individuals on this program and when will they become effected. Matthew Ballard clarified that eligibility will be up to 30 days prior to the release date and the recipient will have traditional Medicaid coverage.

Jory Farmer asked if DMS has had contact with OST, Rosebud, and other tribal juvenile detention facilities regarding this program. Ashley Lauing detailed some facilities she has already contacted and asked the group for additional contacts if available.

Nico Sheppard asked to define targeted case management and how DMS is planning on including areas where access is limited for services including PCP services. Heather stated that DMS is exploring leveraging current providers to provide the service. Ashley clarified that ideally the targeted case management provider would be the same prior to release and post release. When it is not there should be a warm hand off.

Ellen Durkin asked which type of providers can provide targeted case management. Matthew clarified the SPA will define who can provide the services. Medicaid is still reviewing and determining qualifications.

Raylene Miner asked if individuals who turn 19 during the incarceration would automatically become eligible through Medicaid Expansion. Kara Peery, DSS, Economic Assistance, explained the process for individuals older than 19 to apply for Medicaid.

#### **Home Again Operation Protocol:**

Ashley Lauing, Policy Strategy Manager, DSS, provided an overview of this program and possible changes to the operational protocol. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Lisa Schlosser asked how transition from the facility to home works in this program. Ashley explained that once a referral has been received and approved, a Home Again transition coordinator works with the recipient to identify their needs prior to moving back into the community.

Raylene Miner described a situation where she had referred a client to the Home Again program. Ashley explained the referral process includes filling out a referral online at [www.HomeAgain.SD.Gov](http://www.HomeAgain.SD.Gov). The program aims to move recipients to the community of their choosing, however barriers such as housing or a lack of service providers can make transitioning recipients into that community unsafe or unsustainable.

Vanessa Palmier stated CMS rules state the inpatient period of the Home Again program is 60 days, but the South Dakota Home Again program online states a 30-day inpatient period. Ashley clarified that under the current grant, the inpatient period only needs to be 30 days for the SD program.

Katherine Williams stated their program, Circle of Life Home Care, have case managers that help individuals by allowing clients to live in units at their facility, but the facilities are generally full.

#### **Quality Strategy Initiatives:**

Ashley Lauing, Policy Strategy Manager, DSS, provided an overview of the current DSS initiatives. Current initiatives align with the DSS mission. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Katherine Williams described the services her team provide and how they align with DMS initiatives.

Raylene Miner stated on her support of the chosen initiatives.

Nico Sheppard commented on support of the current initiative, especially the dental initiative, as there are limited dental providers currently accepting Medicaid patients. Marissa Figueroa agreed and stated that prenatal is limited in their area as well. Matthew provided an update to changes in dental reimbursement that went into effect in July 2023 and also described the American Dental Association pilot project Medicaid is participating in to increase dental provider participation and access.

Lisa Schlosser asked about doula's and their qualifications. Matthew explained doula's are non-clinical providers, but they would still have to meet certain criteria and enroll with Medicaid.

Leah Belgarde asked if the data used to track the metrics of the initiatives can be shared with the group. Matthew indicated DMS would work with the data team and provide data at the next tribal consultation meeting.

#### **Eligibility Updates and Feedback:**

Kara Peery, DSS, Economic Assistance, provided an update on the new eligibility system and fixes and modifications that have been made since last tribal consultation.

Nico Sheppard and Vanessa Palmier stated they have been using the online eligibility portal to help clients apply and renew for DSS services at Oyate Health Center (OHC). They have not had issues using the portal and the applications are being processed timely.

Nico Sheppard asked questions on the medical referral process when an OHC patient needs to be referred to a specialist. Matthew stated he will review the process and provide Nico with feedback.

#### **Tribal Reports:**

Stephanie Yellow Hammer and council members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe introduced themselves. They are excited to be a part of the tribal consultation team. Stephanie asked if there is a SD Medicaid liaison similar to the ND Medicaid liaison. Monique Runnels, North Dakota Medicaid Tribal Liaison, described her position as the ND liaison.

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

Ellen Durkin, SD Urban Indian Health Center, provided a handout on community cultural services offered at her facility. Nico Sheppard asked if DMS is looking to add to the waiver cultural health that other states are starting to include. Heather Petermann described the process to add a 1115 waiver program including requirements for an external evaluator and that the services must be budget neutral.

Nico Sheppard, Oyate Health Center (OHC), provided an update on the dental facility at OHC. They now have 5 full time dentist and 2 contracted dentists. OHC recently celebrated their 5 year anniversary at the new location with a community celebration.

Waysha White Face with Oglala Sioux Tribe and Native Women's Health Care introduced her and described her facility and services.

**Public Input:**

Secretary Althoff introduced himself and thanked attendees for coming and participating.

**Next Meetings:**

- 01/21/2025 - Virtual Only
- 04/15/2025
- 07/15/2025
- 10/21/2025