



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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**South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation Minutes  
May 20, 2025**

**Attendees:**

Heather Petermann, Matt Althoff, Marissa Figueroa, Nico Sheppard, Vanessa Palmier, Kristar Shouldis, Matthew Ballard, Travis Johnson, Jessica Morsal, Alicia Mousseau, Ryan Kills A hundred, Tony Reider, Renae Hericks, Mary Johnle, Valerie Kelly, Ellen Durkin, Bonnie Cromwell, Ashley Lauing, Sara DeCoteau, Ben Tiensvold, Abby Marquardt, Vicki Palmreuter, Beth Dokken, Donald Warne, Bobbi Kraft, Sharon Chontos, Shaina Johnson, Shobi Zetina, Gene Tyson, Katherine Welch, Christine Olson, and a number of staff and tribal members from Oglala Sioux Tribe joined virtually.

**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 January 2025 Meeting:**

Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, 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](#).

**Medicaid Work Requirements:**

Matt Althoff and Heather Petermann introduced the SDCareerLink 1115 Demonstration Waiver including providing an overview of the demonstration application and design features. The demonstration application is currently in Tribal Consultation. A copy of the notice can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

**Comments included:**

- Commenters asked the State to exempt tribal members. Commenters stated that tribes are a political entity and not a race.
- A commenter also suggested exempting lineal descendants or IHS eligible individuals.
- A commenter suggested that all individuals residing in the reservation boundaries in the counties should be exempt.
- Commenters indicated transportation and economic opportunities in rural counties would be an issue.
- A commenter indicated they understood the premise as a taxpayer, but expressed concern about individuals making false claims to continue coverage, such as falsely claiming to be a caretaker.
- A commenter expressed concerns about the burden placed on providers and shifting care to the emergency department.

- A commenter indicated IHS is not fully funded and IHS and tribal providers rely on Medicaid funding, which would be reduced by coverage losses. The commenter suggested this impacts fulfillment of the federal government's treaty obligation to provide healthcare.
- Commenters agreed with the premise/goal that everyone should work, but disagreed with tying eligibility to work and expressed that healthcare should not be a privilege.

Questions and Answers included:

- How does the lack of economic development in some rural communities impact the demonstration?
  - The demonstration application includes an exemptions for individuals residing in an area considered exempt from SNAP's able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) requirements which have unemployment 20% or more above the national average.
- Are the proposed Medicaid Work Requirement going to be ran just as the SNAP work requirements?
  - The demonstration application has some similarities to SNAP requirements such as exempting the same counties due to higher unemployment, but other elements differ.
- Will college students be exempted from work requirements?
  - Individuals in college will be considered as satisfying the requirements.
- What is the mechanism for considering an exemption such as specific providers that can sign off on an exemption?
  - The application did not specify this. DSS will consider adding additional clarification.
- How long is the public comment period and are there opportunities for other comments to be submitted?
  - The comment period concludes June 18<sup>th</sup>. Public forums are being held on May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup>. Meeting details are provided in the notice documents.
- What is the best example of a state that has implemented requirements?
  - Currently, no states have a work requirement for the Medicaid expansion population. Georgia has not expanded Medicaid, but has implemented a work requirement in relation to offering eligibility for additional adults who were previously ineligible.
- Will this require additional department staff?
  - Yes, it is anticipated the department will request additional eligibility and enrollment staff to assist with additional work associated with the demonstration.
- Does the work requirement take into consideration cost of living such as SNAP?
  - No, Medicaid expansion eligibility is limited to 138% FPL.
- Does the state have a list of counties that meet the exemption based on unemployment rates?
  - Yes, the counites are: Bennett, Buffalo, Corson, Dewey, Ziebach, Oglala Lakota, and Todd. The list of counties are subject to change to align with updates to the SNAP exempt counties.
- Under the exemptions, does "Individuals whose eligibility has been determined on the basis of disability or who have been determined blind or disabled by the Social Security Administration" mean only through SSI or can a doctor/provider write a note for them?
  - In addition to disability determination by the Social Security Administration, individuals are also able to qualify for a medical exemption for serious medical conditions that prevent an individual from working through attestation and supporting documentation.
- Will the state submit the tribal consultation comments to CMS including the request for a exemption for tribal members?
  - Yes, meeting minutes and the request for an exemption for tribal members will be noted in the submission package if the state moves forward with submitting the application to CMS.

**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](#).

**Reimbursement Rates:**

This topic was postponed to the July Tribal Consultation meeting due to time limitations. Matthew Ballard noted there is a FQHC rate study being conducted and a survey was recently sent to providers. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

**BabyReady Update:**

Valerie Kelly provided a verbal update on the BabyReady sharing sessions that took place earlier this year. Effective July 1, 2025, BabyReady eligibility is being updated to include pregnant women 32 weeks or less. Providers will also be able to opt in pregnant women during the period between 33 weeks and delivery.

**Eligibility Questions**

- Oyate indicated they have experienced issues with recipients “falling off” and asked if there was a system issue. DSS is not aware of a system issue and indicated they would follow-up outside of the meeting to look into further.

**Tribal Reports:**

None were provided

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

None were provided

**Public Input:**

None were provided

**Next Meetings:**

- 07/15/2025 – Oyate, Rapid City, SD
- 10/21/2025 -