



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES  
700 GOVERNORS DRIVE  
PIERRE, SD 57501-2291  
PHONE: 605.773.3495  
FAX: 605.773.5246  
WEB: [dss.sd.gov](http://dss.sd.gov)

**South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation Minutes  
July 15, 2025**

**Attendees:**

Heather Petermann, Matthew Ballard, Renae Hericks, Ashley Lauing, Cathy Johnson, Thompson, Leslie, Ben Tiensvold, Melanie Boetel, Bonnie Cromwell, Caitlyn Shoulder, Cholena P, Christine Olson, Sara DeCoteau, Corryn Gabbert, Gene Tyon, Bobbi Kraft, Theresa Bush, Waysha White Face, Katherine Welch, Leslie Wilson, Elise Johnson, Ellen Durkin, Vikki Swallow, Mary Bellecourt, Maylynn Riding In, Alexia Seigler, Jerilyn Church, Nico Sheppard, Kristar Shoudis, Laketon McLaughlin, Vicki Palmreuter, Catherine Lawrence, Tiffany Larson, Vanessa Palmier, Christy Miller, Kim Johnson, Marissa Figueroa, Lisa Schlosser, Janelle Cantrell, Barb LeBeau, Warren B., Travis Johnson, Mary Johnle, Lee Hosman, Leah Belgarde, Traci Seaberg, Kathi St. John

**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 May 2025 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](#).

Comments and Discussion

- Matthew requested feedback regarding updating this report to an online dashboard. Feedback indicated that an online dashboard with monthly data would be helpful.
- Sara DeCoteau asked why Grant Roberts private ambulance service is listed. Matthew indicated DSS will look into it (Further research found it was included in error).

**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](#).

Comments and Discussion

- Leah Belgarde asked if South Dakota has spoken with North Dakota about including Traditional Healing Medicine under our State Plan. South Dakota does not have plans to include under a state plan amendment but will be monitoring the outcome to understand if this is approved by CMS. Traditionally, these services would only be allowed under a 1115 waiver, which requires budget neutrality and outcomes monitoring.

**Medicaid Work Requirements:**

Heather Peterman provided an update on Medicaid Work Requirements. South Dakota will not be submitting the SDCareerLink 1115 demonstration to CMS due to newly signed federal provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill. Additional impacts to South Dakota Medicaid program and eligibility under One Big Beautiful Bill were also discussed.

#### Comments and Discussion

- Vanessa Palmier asked if there is a summary available that highlights the provisions. DSS will work to develop a summary for the next Tribal Consultation meeting.
- Jerilyn Church asked if tribes are exempt from the provision regarding a 1-month look back (Expansion) and 2-month look back (CHIP and Medicaid) eligibility period. At this time there does not appear to be any exemptions carved out for the AI/AN population indicated in HR1.
- Nico Sheppard asked if there is an implementation schedule and can the State share eligibility status information of recipients that they serve for monitoring purposes as DSS did for unwinding. The state will include effective dates for the Bill's provisions at the next meeting on the summary and will consider this as we operationalize the bill requirements.

#### **Reimbursement Rates:**

Matthew Ballard provided an update on reimbursement rates for state fiscal year 2026. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

#### Comments and Discussion

- Nico Sheppard asked when notification will be sent to hospitals. Matthew shared that we have been in communication with hospitals for input and feedback throughout the spring and summer. Formal public notice will also occur in accordance with State Administrative Rules change processes and State Plan Amendment processes.

#### **Mental Health Referrals:**

Matthew Ballard provided an overview of changes to mental health referrals. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

#### **FAQ and Website Feedback Solicited:**

Matthew asked for feedback regarding FAQs that should be added to our website and the best location for FAQs.

- Vanessa asked why CHIP ages and household income requirements aren't more flexible. Mary Johnle provided that for Medicaid and CHIP, household income is based on tax-filing household and clarified that SNAP and Medicaid have different requirements.
- Nico Sheppard asked if there was a way to simplify "Am I eligible" on the website and provide more criteria on the front end. DSS will look into adding further clarifying language but would like to emphasize that we encourage all potential recipients to apply if they are uncertain if they qualify.
- Marissa Figueroa asked if an unborn baby counted on household size for Medicaid and CHIP. Mary Johnle indicated that the unborn child does count as part of the household size.
- Tiffany Larson asked if a Medicare recipient is ever eligible for Medicaid. Mary Johnle provided scenarios when Medicaid eligibility would apply.
- Vanessa suggested a link on the main page to FAQs and then select a category including one for providers.

**Eligibility Questions:** Mary Johnle provided an update regarding a change for the customer portal that will allow individuals to be able to apply for SNAP and/or Medicaid without creating a customer portal account through the MySD process. The implementation date is unknown. She also indicated that staff should let her know if they are seeing any closures of individuals who have reported themselves to us as homeless based solely on returned mail as that should not occur unless the mail says they have moved out of state.

#### Comments and Discussion

- Vanessa Palmier asked if the recipient has no address how to enter this information. Staff are directed to ask if there is any address the recipient could receive mail at, if not, they enter “homeless” and DSS will apply the local office as an address and hold mail for the recipient.
- Vanessa Palmier also asked if recipients could ask for a second review of applicants? Mary Johnle indicated that recipients can make this request and can also ask to visit with a supervisor when eligibility determinations may not be correct based on a self-assessment. She also reiterated that recipients could follow Fair Hearing Laws outlined on each determination letter.
- Can blank renewal forms be shared? Mary Johnle will provide this and mentioned a new application is also equivalent.
- Vanessa Palmier mentioned they are not receiving all correspondence/communication for recipients that add them as a contact through ROI. Mary will remind staff to add all contacts to correspondence.

#### **Tribal Reports:**

- Cheyenne River indicated that they have no CEO right now. They are looking to fill the position. Otherwise, it is business as usual. They mentioned patient needs for pressure reducing mattress. Mary Johnle provided that the recipient may be a candidate for ADLS Waiver program and will share the application in a follow-up email. DSS will also follow-up regarding general coverage needs for longer than three months.
- Sara DeCoteau from Sisseton/Wahpeton/Oyate have been generating revenue and have been piloting third-party reimbursement for CHW services. She noted that claims denied for a specific Z-code is still listed as allowable on the website. DSS indicated it will review this. She also made a suggestion to add a point of contact for suggested FAQs.
- Lisa Schlosser from Oyate indicated that they are growing services including chiropractic, dental (including a pediatric dentist), and rehab services. She stated that Oyate was on a prepayment audit which ended and now claims are caught up. She stated they are set to have a good revenue year. Nico Sheppard indicated Oyate now has 6 transportation drivers providing services in Rapid City.

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

- Ellen Durkin with SD Urban Indian Pierre stated that they recently hired Collet as CEO. She indicated that they are under challenging times as a rural healthcare provider but have been working with CHAD to stay afloat and keep their doors open.

#### **Next Meetings:**

- 10/21/2025 – Pierre, SD
- 01/20/2026
- 04/21/2026
- 07/21/2026
- 10/20/2026