



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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**South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation Agenda  
January 20, 2026**

**Attendees:**

Ashley Lauing, Matthew Ballard, Clarissa Barnes, Bill Snyder, Bonnie Cromwell, Caitlyn Shoulder, Nicole Christie, Christine Olson, Cynthia Gillaspie, Sara DaCoteau, Ellen Durkin, Gene Tyon, Renae Hericks, Mary Johnle, Elise Johnson, Lillian Jefferson, Jordan Gunville-Pourier, Kateri Plume, Katrina Drust, Colette Keith, Kimberly Johnson, Leah Belgarde, Leslie LeCompte, Lisa Schlosser, Cassandra Long, Loretta Grey Cloud, Marissa Garza, Nico Sheppard, Kara Peery, Heather Petermann, Rick Stracqualursi, Leslie Thompson, Travis Johnson, Vicki Palmreuter, Warren Buck Elk, Leslie Wilson, Raegan Winder-Norwick, Barbara LeBeau.

**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 October 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.

**State Plan Amendments:**

Renae Hericks, Policy Manager, DSS, DMS reviewed SPAs anticipated to be releasing soon for Tribal Consultation along with those currently with CMS. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

**Traditional Healing Services:**

Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, DSS, DMS gave an update on Traditional Healing Services options. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

**Comments and Discussion**

- Nico Sheppard commented that Oyate currently has a cultural advisor. Their goal is to have spiritual and tradition built into primary care model. Currently has a room for smudging and sweat. Would like to build into the behavioral health setting as well.
- Jordyn Gunville-Pourier is working with Johns Hopkins. He presented information in support of an 1115 Waiver for Traditional Healing Services. They are also currently working on a study through NIH to explore health outcomes and ROI with these services.
- Gene Tyon with Oaye Luta Okolakiciye discussed services provided through ceremony in Rapid City.
- Ellen Durkin with SDUIH indicated they provide the red road group but do not meet the criteria for full IOP based on state standards.
- Leah Belgarde also indicated that Oyate is working to develop a handbook and scope of services for traditional services.
- Sara DeCoteau indicated that Sisseton would like to participate in a workgroup for investigating the budget neutrality of these services.
- Bill Snyder asked how we interpret CMS's statement that these are not in the workplan for this year? The State interprets this as meaning if we submit an 1115 this year CMS is not anticipating taking action on it unless the State is able to demonstrate it needs to be acted on urgently.

**Dental Coverage and Outcomes:**

Raegan Winder-Norwick, Policy Analyst, DSS, DMS provided an update on dental coverage and outcomes presented to CMS as part of an affinity group. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

#### Comments and Discussion

- Sara DeCoteau remarked that the biggest problem they see at Sisseton IHS is a dental provider shortage and purchased referred care expenditures for referring out for those services.

#### **Rural Health Transformation:**

Matthew Ballard gave an update on the Rural Health Transformation Program. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

#### Comments and Discussion

- Colette Keith asked if DSS has heard anything on the legislative process on those funds. The State indicated that there was an informational session with Joint Appropriations Committee, and the bill is currently awaiting a hearing with the House Appropriations Committee.
- Sara DeCoteau indicated that some of the standard contract language is a hurdle for IHS/tribal providers. The State recommended applying for funding and to work out contract language in the contracting phase.

#### **Primary Accountable Care Transformation (PACT):**

Dr. Clarissa Barnes, Chief Medical Office, DSS, DMS presented an update on PACT. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

#### Comments and Discussion

- Sara DeCoteau asked if the goal is to help defragment care and address challenges with maternal health care? Within this model is there a way to incentivize providers to utilize tribal facilities?
  - This model is for primary care. A separate initiative is focused on the hub and spoke model for maternity care.
- Lisa Schlosser asked if this would be reimbursed similar to BabyReady and Health Home core services.
  - This model was built around the success of these programs and would operate in a similar way.
- Lean Belgarde asked If someone is interested in joining one of the PACT workgroups, how could they get involved?
  - Please email [Clariss.Barnes@state.sd.us](mailto:Clariss.Barnes@state.sd.us) if you are interested.

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

Mary Johnle, DSS, Division of Economic Assistance shared the new [HR1 webpage](#).

#### Comments and Discussion

- Lisa Schlosser asked if in future meetings we would include items that DSS indicates they will follow-up on and provide updates on them?
  - The State indicated feedback from the last meeting was incorporated into HR1 implementation discussions internally. The State will include more details on follow-up items going forward and will have additional HR1 updates at future meetings.

#### **Tribal/IHS/UIH/Tribal 638**

- Oyate indicates they are still growing and adding more staff. They indicated they should be adding dental providers and nurse practitioners in the next few months, and a chiropractor. Oyate indicated that their transportation service line is also going well.
- Sara DeCoteau reported that Sisseton has arranged a contract with CHWSD to get CHW services developed and providing services as well as doula services. Elise highlighted some of the language issues in contracts that Sara brought up earlier as well.
- Ellen Durkin with IHS has no major updates to provide. She also wanted to highlight her support for continued conversations on traditional healing coverage.

**Public Input:**

- None

**2026 Meetings**

- 04/21/2026 – Rapid City One Stop
- 07/21/2026
- 10/20/2026