



South Dakota
Department of
Social Services

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES
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**South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation Agenda
July 21, 2026**

Attendees:

Ashley Lauing, Matthew Ballard, Renae Hericks, Cynthia Gillaspie, Sara DeCoteau, Elise Johnson, Jennifer Stalley, Kimberly Johnson, Leah Belgarde, Marissa Garza, Rick Stracqualursi, Nico Sheppard, Vanessa Palmier, Caitlin Shoulder, Gene Tyon, Chairman Peter Lengkeek, Ben May, Emily Erickson, Erik Lujan, Melanie Boetel, Aaliyah Jones, Rebecca Gervais-Larson, Kate Derrick, Kristin McNeely, Mary Johnle

Welcome and Introductions:

Matt Althoff, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Social Services (DSS). Welcomed everyone and discussed preliminary implementation of Indian Managed Care Entity (HB 1006). Communication will be sent out soon to each tribe's council seeking tribal representation.

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 2026 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 current SPAs in the tribal consultation period. Slides can be found on the Medicaid [Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Rural Health Transformation

Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, DSS, DMS provided an update on the Rural Strong Grant RFP. He noted a high volume of applications. The review process was recently completed, and award notifications will be sent out soon. Matthew also provided a status update regarding the Primary Accountable Care Transformation (PACT) initiative. Several stakeholder meetings have been held to inform model design. The department also recently signed a contract with a vendor to assist with model design and payment calculation. Information on the Rural Health Transformation may be found on the [Department of Health's website](#).

- Leah Belgarde – Can you share how many tribal applicants you have had? Have there been any awards and how much?
 - Award letters have not gone out yet, as such DSS can't share those details.
- Can those be shared at the next Tribal Consultation meeting?
 - Yes, the department will share what we are able at the next meeting.

Program Integrity

Rebecca Gervais-Larson discussed program integrity efforts across South Dakota as it pertains to provider enrollment, claims processing, national reviews and state reviews and the methods that

are used to ensure accurate information. The State consistently achieves good results on our national reviews.

- Sara DeCoteau commented that she was appreciative of the work South Dakota is doing to monitor fraud, waste, and abuse.
 - Rebecca added that we send out letters to a randomly selected set of 400 recipients indicating recent visits and asking them to let Medicaid know if there are concerns.

Board of Addiction and Prevention Professionals Credentialing

Jennifer Stalley provided an overview of proposed rules regarding credentialing for select providers including peer supports. The rules package can be found here:

<https://rules.sd.gov/detail.aspx?Id=955>

- Gene Tyon with Oaye Luta noted they are working toward expanding the services they provide.
- Marissa Garza asked if the changes were specific to SUD?
 - This rule package is specific to addiction and prevention services.

HR1 Website Overview

Mary Johnle, Eligibility Program Administrator, DSS showed attendees the new [HR1 website](#) and where to find updates.

- Leah Belgard extended a thank you for the hard work going into the website and appreciated the language that comprehensively described excluded individuals

Tribal/IHS/UIH/Tribal 638

- Sara DeCoteau indicated that Sisseton Wahpeton is working on billing for CHW, Targeted Case Management and Doula services. They are also working with South Dakota Medicaid for an onsite training to help recipients with Medicaid applications.
- Nico Sheppard indicated that Oyate has obtained some new accreditations. Oyate is seeing exponential growth with around 600 employees. They are remodeling the dental area to expand services. They are looking to increase specialty services.

2026 Meetings

- 10/20/2026 – Pierre Tentatively