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

South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation
October 20, 2026
1:00-3:00 Central Time
Kneip Conference Room
700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD, 57501-2291
Join via Tribal Consultation | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 259 637 219 936 16
Passcode: DB7ko2Ra

Attendees:
Aaliyah Jones, Amber Torres, Matthew Ballard, Caitlyn Gillaspie, Mary Johnle, Julia LindPaintner, Kate Saul, Leah Belgarde, Neil Martinsen-Burrell, Rick Stracqualursi, Vanessa Palmier, Raegan Winder-Norwick, Kara Peery

Welcome and Introductions:
Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, DSS, DMS. Welcomed everyone and everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Review Minutes from July 2026 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.

Eligibility Updates and Feedback:
Mary Johnle, Eligibility Program Administrator, DSS showed attendees the HR1 website updates and the added webinar with information and the community engagement sheet on the site with more information. Johnle also advised there will be a Medical Frailty Webinar in November by Dr Clarissa Barnes.

Medicaid Application Update:
Mary Johnle and several CMS staff updated about the Medicaid Application process. They shared how they are working to deliver an updated, streamlined, and more user-friendly Medicaid applications.
Comments/Questions:

C. Gillespie: It might be helpful to put a statement that advise applicants they will need to provide income questions not applicable to the Medicaid application.
   a. Provide feedback to CMS and Mary.

Leah: Do you have a link to the current form?
   b. Link provided in chat.

State Plan Amendments:
Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, DSS, DMS provided an update on the State Plan Amendments. He shared the updates and the information DSS plans to share at the end of the year.
Questions and Comments

- No questions or comments.

Other Medicaid Updates:
Transportation

Vanessa Palmier: We don't have a lot of information on this topic. How would we explain this to our community.

Cynthia Gillespie: If they are traveling from Tribes, will that be NEMT?

- For Tribes, it is administered differently.

Monique Medicine: The process has been more difficult. What are the barriers for those not enrolled to become enrolled.

- We have reached out to those currently enrolled and received concerns from their perspective.
- Are there outside barriers to those providers in your area?
- Make the process as simple as possible. Allow everyone to have easier process to NEMT.
- No vehicle: How would I get connected with transportation providers?
    - On the website, it has the map and shows the numbers to call and who to reach out to, to get more information.

Tribal Reports

- Leah: Is there a list of recipients for Tribal participants for Rural Health Transformation?
    i. Yes, on the website.
        1. It is a lot to click through and report on the Tribal recipients for RHT.
        2. Matthew will follow up with DOH about adding a filter to the map.
- Monique: Would the state consider centralized transportation coordination?
    i. NEMT for that benefit does provide some coordination like a bus ticket they would help with that. Not sure how much a model like that costs but we will look at it a little bit further.

IHS and UIH Reports
Public Input

2027 Meetings

- 01/19/2027 – Virtual
- 04/20/2027 – Rapid City
- 07/20/2027 – Sioux Falls
- 10/19/2027 – Pierre