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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

**Beneficiary Advisory Committee  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 15, 2026**

The Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC) met on Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. CST at the South Omaha Library in Omaha, Nebraska. The meeting was hybrid which allowed members to join in-person and virtually. A call-in option was also available.

**BAC members in attendance:** Alissa Kern, Allison Sothan, Amber Corbin, Arvoni Johnson, Erica Spears, Franck Toe, Lori Wachter, Mary Phillips, Vanessa Chavez-Jurado

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) employees in attendance:** Bailey Reigle, Celia Wightman, Collin Spillinek, Jacob Kawamoto, Matthew Ahern

**Members of the public in attendance:** Erin Shea, Kelsey Arends, Terri Barry

**BAC members not in attendance:** Renae Wacker (planned absence)

**I. Opening, Introductions, and Announcements**

The meeting was called to order by Mary at 12:34 p.m. CST.

Mary made the conflict-of-interest policy and Nebraska Open meetings act available for attendees.

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and Celia took attendance.

**II. Review and Approval of November 20, 2025, Draft Minutes**

No edits were suggested to be made to the minutes. Alissa motioned to approve the minutes and Amber Corbin seconded. The November meeting minutes were approved.

**III. MLTC Announcements**

The Federal Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2026 is 72.5 cents per mile.

MLTC Staff are drafting the annual report that is required by CMS to be posted in July. MLTC will bring the partially drafted report to the March meeting for members to review. The MAC will

vote to approve the report at the May meeting. The annual report will include the following sections:

- Introduction
- Background
- Implementation
- Committee Information
- Meeting Recaps
- Conclusion and Next Steps

BAC members who wish to can submit a testimonial about their experience so far with the BAC to be included in the annual report. MLTC staff will send out more information about how to submit a testimonial.

#### BAC Bylaws

- Mary called for a motion to approve the draft BAC bylaws. Amber motioned and Alissa seconded. The bylaws were approved and will be added to the webpage.

#### **IV. BAC Member Announcements**

There were no committee member announcements during this time.

#### **V. Priorities**

MLTC staff shared a summary of the committee priorities for the year that were selected at the previous BAC meeting:

1. Community Outreach and Collaboration
2. Beneficiary knowledge
3. Medicaid website and resources

MLTC staff also shared the following recommended agenda items to align with the established priorities:

- Review outreach notices and educational materials about Medicaid programs/services (Example: Work Requirements notices and materials) – 2 and 3
- Educational session on how to sign up for public comment/website update notifications; how to edit beneficiary notification settings (text messaged, etc.) – 2 and 3
- Review outreach notices and educational materials about Medicaid programs/services (Example: Work Requirements notices and materials) – 2 and 3

MLTC brought a draft notice related to Medicaid Work Requirements for BAC members to review, give feedback on, and ask questions.

General Work Requirements recommendations and questions:

- Provide additional clarification on what is approved for volunteer hours.
- Provide additional clarification on what “medically frail” means for work requirements.
  - MLTC is working on a list of diagnoses that qualify.
- Question: What support can social workers provide to beneficiaries providing documentation?
  - Answer: MLTC can follow up on this question when we have more information.
- Question: How does it work if the qualifying activities are occurring during the month of application rather than the month prior to application?

Medicaid Work Requirements Resources:

- [Webpage](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions / Spanish](#)
- [Beneficiary Outreach Notice / Spanish](#)
- [Job Seeking Assistance](#)

## **VI. Open Discussion / Public Comment**

Communication:

- DHHS should leverage social media to share opportunities for public comment and notify the public about upcoming programmatic changes.
- The committee recommended a brief presentation on how to sign up for notifications for the March meeting.
- The committee recommended adding MLTC email contacts to the BAC communications/contact resource.

Waiver services:

- A BAC member shared concerns on proposed changes to the Aged and Disabled (AD) waiver and what the changes will mean for the program.
- Matt proposed that someone from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) can come to an upcoming meeting to present to the BAC.
- One member elevated [LB958](#).

Non-emergency medical transportation:

- Alissa requested that if any Medicaid beneficiaries have had issues with their non-emergency medical transportation, they should contact their managed care organization.
- There have been system issues with ride requests being lost, causing beneficiaries to be left without transportation to or from appointments. The reported issues are predominantly through UnitedHealthcare and Medical Transportation Management (MTM) Inc.

- Beneficiaries and providers can email the [DHHS.MLTCExperience@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MLTCExperience@nebraska.gov) inbox if they have issues with non-emergency medical transportation services.

**VII. Confirm the Next Meeting Time and Location**

MLTC confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska with the exact location to be announced. There **will** be a virtual option for this meeting.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Committee at 2:35 p.m. CST.

DRAFT