



**Beneficiary Advisory Committee  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 19, 2026**

The Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC) met on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. CST at the Nebraska State Office Building Meadowlark Room in Lincoln, 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, Amber Corbin, Franck Toe, Lori Wachter, Mary Phillips, Renae Wacker, Vanessa Chavez-Jurado

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) employees in attendance:** Ashiye Aator, Bailey Reigle, Celia Wightman, Emma Joyce, Jacob Kawamoto, Jamie Marjurinen, Jennifer Clark, Lisa Kaplan Howe, Matthew Ahern

**Members of the public in attendance:** Amy Behnke, Brad Meurrens, Donna Sandberg-Goodner, Dusk Junker, Jina Ragland, 'K', Katie, Kelsey Arends, Monica, Phil Galewitz, RJack, Terri Barry, Tina, 'W'

**BAC members not in attendance:** Allison Sothan (planned absence), Arvoni Johnson, Erica Spears

*There was one call-in number in attendance.*

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

The meeting was called to order by Mary at 12:30 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 January 15, 2025, Draft Minutes**

No edits were suggested to be made to the minutes. Mary asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Amber motioned to approve the minutes and Alissa seconded. The January meeting minutes were approved.

### **III. MLTC Announcements**

#### Compensation and Reimbursement

- MLTC reminded BAC members that if they live 150 miles or more from a meeting location, they are eligible to receive hotel reimbursement. Prior Authorization forms must be submitted 30 days before the upcoming meeting to be considered.
- MLTC reminded BAC members that compensation and reimbursement forms should be submitted within 30 days after each meeting.
- All compensation, reimbursement, and hotel prior authorization forms are available on the [BAC webpage](#) under 'Member Compensation and Reimbursement.'

#### Annual Report

- MLTC sent out the annual report for members to review. Please provide feedback by April 2. MLTC will bring an updated version of the report to the May meeting for members to vote on.
- Please complete the member testimonial survey:  
<https://forms.monday.com/forms/59513bded219f22712146c63c90cae1d?r=use1>

#### Communication/Contact Resource

- MLTC staff distributed a contact resource with BAC members and MLTC staff contact information.

#### HCBS Flowchart

- MLTC staff created a flowchart that shows all the HCBS programs, eligibility requirements for the programs, and steps to obtain coverage.
- The flowchart can be found here:  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/HCBS%20Flow%20Chart.pdf>

#### Nebraska Sustainable Coverage 1115 Waiver

The Public Comment period for this proposed waiver ends on Thursday, March 26

- For more information about the waiver, please visit this webpage:  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Sustainable-Coverage-Demonstration-Waiver.aspx>

#### New BAC Representative for MAC

- In July, a 4<sup>th</sup> BAC member will be joining the MAC as a BAC representative. This is a requirement of the Final Rule that requires a certain percentage of the MAC to be made up of BAC members.
- MLTC requested that BAC members fill out a form or email [DHHS.MACandBAC@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MACandBAC@nebraska.gov) to indicate interest in being the BAC representative

- BAC members will vote on the next BAC representative at the May 21 meeting.

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

Vanessa encouraged meeting attendees to take part in the legislative session by sending comments to legislators and speaking at hearings.

#### **V. Discussion: Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)**

DDD Deputy director of community services Jennifer Clark presented information on DDD's services.

See the information she presented in slides eight through 29 of the BAC meeting slides (posted on the [BAC webpage](#) under '2026 Meetings').

#### **Group Discussion**

- Katie Beckett is a good option to disregard parental income to help access medical coverage for children who meet the criteria.
- Waiver programs are a good option for families/individuals that need more home and community-based services and support beyond medical coverage
- **Question:** An individual at the meeting provided feedback that applying for the Katie Beckett program is difficult. They've been told to write that they're applying for the Katie Beckett program on the paper application, but online it is difficult to specify that the application is for that program
- **Question:** Were the waiver changes for Services Coordinators and current contracts ending communicated to members?
  - Answer: Yes, due to systems restraints the Department had to mail the letters the same day the decision was announced to the Leagues.
- **Question:** Will annual reviews be impacted?
  - Answer: The annual reviews will still happen as scheduled. Every family will know their new Service Coordinator (and supervisor) and have contact information no later than April 10
- **Question:** Where can I find Medicaid program income limits?
  - **Answer:** On the [Medicaid eligibility](#) webpage under [Federal Poverty Level and Program Eligibility](#)

#### **VI. Discussion: Medicaid Work Requirements**

Matthew and Jacob presented updates on Medicaid work requirements, which are being implemented on May 1, 2026. See slides 30 through 46 of the BAC meeting slides (posted on the [BAC webpage](#) under '2026 Meetings').

BAC members had the opportunity to ask questions about the requirements. They also offered their feedback on draft work requirement materials.

BAC members can offer feedback on a one-pager resource that was emailed to them. Members should email their feedback to [DHHS.MACandBAC@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MACandBAC@nebraska.gov) by April 2, 2026.

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

There were no public comments.

## **VIII. Confirm the Next Meeting Time and Location**

MLTC confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Omaha, Nebraska with the exact location to be announced.

The meeting will be held in person for BAC members.

Members of the public can attend virtually or in person.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Mary at 2:30 p.m. CST.