



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

The Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 3 to 5 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.

MAC members in attendance: Amber Corbin, Brandi Renner, Dave Miers, Elizabeth Thelen, Frank Clepper, Jenelle Miller, Kevin Low, Mary Phillips, Michael Parnell, Philip Gray, Vietta Swalley

Managed Care Organization (MCO) representatives in attendance: Frank Clepper, J. Michael Parnell

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

Members of the public in attendance: Alicia Christensen, Amanda Rath, Amy Behnke, Anna Mudumala, Brittany L, Brooke, Cindy Cadavy, Deb Schardt, Jessica Woodard, Keela VanGrinsven, Kelsey Arends, Themis Gomes

MAC members not in attendance: Jennifer Hansen (planned absence), Josh Sharkey, Renae Wacker (planned absence),

There were 4 call-in numbers in attendance.

I. Opening, Introductions, and Announcements

The meeting was called to order by Vietta at 3:01 p.m. CST.

- The Open Meetings Act was made available for attendees.
- Vietta welcomed the meeting attendees and Celia ran through the roll call.
- Bailey reminded the committee of the Conflict of Interest policy. Conflict of Interest forms were available at the meeting.

MLTC Announcements

- Welcome to our new member Kevin Low.
- 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
- Bylaw Updates
 - MLTC introduced the following bylaw updates
 - Article IV. Committee Structure Section 2(a)
 - Added “at least” and removed the number 4
 - Article VII. Meetings Section 2
 - Removed the 30 days in advance requirements for materials. MLTC will aim to provide relevant materials to the MAC 14 days before the meeting.
 - Article VIII. Reports and Recommendations Section 2
 - Added a paragraph about the annual report
 - Vietta called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mary motioned and Amber seconded. The bylaws were approved and will be added to the webpage.

MAC Member Announcements

- MCO Representative, J. Michael Parnell announced that he rolled off as the board president of the Medicaid Health Plan Association and that Frank Clepper, from Molina, is now filling that position. Frank will now be the MCO Representative on the MAC.
- Jenelle Miller shared a resource titled “Preserving Medicaid Coverage for People with Disabilities: What Federal Disability Rights Laws Require of States”. That resource can be found [here](#).

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

No edits were suggested to be made to the minutes. Phil motioned to approve the minutes and Jenelle seconded. The November meeting minutes were approved.

III. Leadership Election

- As per the MAC Bylaws, the vice-chair will become the chair at the conclusion of the Chair’s term length. Jennifer Hansen currently serves as the MAC’s vice-chair and will serve as the chair for the upcoming year.
- Elizabeth Thelen and Jenelle Miller both applied to be the next vice-chair. Members voted by secret ballot and the election ended in a tie. The committee determined that the director of Medicaid and Long-Term Care will determine the vice-chair due to the tie.
- MLTC will work to create a process to break a tie in the event of a tie in the future.

IV. Beneficiary Advisory (BAC) Update

- Mary gave the BAC update. She stated that the BAC voted to approve their bylaws and that they reviewed and provided feedback on a Medicaid Work Requirements document.

V. Federal Legislative Update

- MLTC Deputy Director, Matthew Ahern presented on the [Rural Health Transformation Program](#) and [Medicaid Work Requirements](#). The slides from this presentation can be found on slides 12 through 21 of the meeting slides, posted on the [MAC webpage](#).
- Discussion and Questions
 - Question: Will more staff need to be hired to carry out these changes?
 - Answer: No, we are comfortable with the staff we have to carry out the changes.
 - Questions: Will members who do not meet the work requirements yet have an opportunity up to May 1st to correct this?
 - Answer: Yes. Medicaid Members will not be required to complete work requirements until May 1st. In the meantime they will receive information from Nebraska Medicaid about the changes. They will also receive information at their renewal about what is required of them.
 - Members suggested that having more information about the volunteering guidelines would be helpful.
 - Question: How will people know if they need to report information?
 - Answer: They will receive a notification either in the mail, or on iServe.
 - Question: How can people without access to the internet report?
 - Answer: They can return their information by mail and/or drop it off at a local DHHS office.
 - Question: Is there room for conversations about adding chronic homelessness as an exemption?
 - Answer: We can look into this and potentially list it as a temporary hardship.
 - Question: Can someone fleeing from a domestic violence situation get an exemption?
 - We will look into this.

VI. Open Discussion / Public Comment

- Question: Other states have introduced covering ABA services for people with Down Syndrome. Is this something Nebraska Medicaid has considered?
 - Answer: We will take this back as feedback and share with the team.
- It was mentioned that the public comment period for the [Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Applied Behavior Analysis Provider Manual](#) has been extended to January 31, 2026.

- It was mentioned that family members are already seeing their hours cut before the new AD waiver is approved.
 - Jenn Clark will look into this
- We received many comments about the AD Waiver changes and how the changes will impact families
 - Jenn Clark assured members and the public that her staff is reading all of the public comments they've gotten and are taking them seriously. The answers to the public comments will be posted on the webpage. If changes are made to the waiver, an additional public comment period will be needed.

VII. Confirm the Next Meeting Time and Location

MLTC confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 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 4:57 p.m. CST.