



**Medicaid Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2025**

The Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 3 to 5 p.m. CST at the Charles H. Gere Branch Public Library in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was hybrid which allowed members to join in-person and virtually. A call-in option was also available.

Meeting slides: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/MAC%20Meeting%20Slides%2011-20-25.pdf>

MAC members in attendance: Amber Corbin, Brandi Renner, Dave Miers, Elizabeth Thelen, Jenelle Miller, Jennifer Hansen, Mary Phillips, Michael Parnell, Philip Gray, Renae Wacker, Vietta Swalley

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) employees in attendance: Bailey Reigle, Celia Wightman, Dr. Elsie Verbik, Jacob Kawamoto, Jennifer Clark, Jeremy Brunssen

Members of the public in attendance: Amanda Hall, Brad Meurrens, Cindy Kadavy, Dr. Dave Miers, Divad Martinez, Donna R Sandberg-Goodner, Donny Larson, Jonathan, Ken Powell, Kim Bainbridge, Maria Martinez, Marilynn Martinez, Ryan Jones, Tara Muir, Themis Gomes

MAC members not in attendance: Jason Gieschen, Josh Sharkey, Kelly Weiler, Staci Hubert

I. Opening, Introductions, and Announcements

The meeting was called to order by Vietta at 3:02 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.

Announcements

- MLTC added time stamps to the agenda so that they can keep themselves on track and to allow for time at the end of the meeting for public comment.
- Heritage Health Open Enrollment started on November 11th and runs through December 15th. In this time period, Medicaid members are able to switch to a different Managed Care Organization (MCO) health plan. Members may email the MAC email with any questions regarding this process.

- Per the [Access Final Rule](#), Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC) is required to draft and publish an annual report to their webpage by July 7, 2026.
 - The MAC must vote to approve the report. The committee should plan to vote on this at the May meeting.
 - MLTC will bring drafts of the report to upcoming MAC meetings so members can review as drafting occurs.
- Recommendation Form
 - MLTC has created a recommendation form that members can fill out at any time. The form is a place for members to bring up topics of interest, questions, and recommendations.
 - The form will allow MLTC to track incoming responses and ensure that member's questions are answered.
 - Members have the option to request the topic be brought up at the next MAC meeting and/or for MLTC to respond to them directly.
 - The form can be found [here](#).

II. **Review and Approval of September 18, 2025, Draft Minutes**

- There were three errors in the September meeting minutes. Phil and Vietta requested the following edits to the September meeting minutes:
 - Vietta requested that the date in Section II be updated from May 15, 2025 to July 17, 2025.
 - Phil requested that the share of cost language in Section V be updated.
 - Vietta requested that in Section X the word mentioned is changed to motioned.
- These changes will be made to the meeting minutes and sent out to the group.
- Members voted to approve the minutes knowing that MLTC will make the required edits. Phil motioned to vote to approve the minutes, and Brandi seconded. The committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

III. **Membership Update**

- There is currently 1 member vacancy on the MAC. MLTC is requesting applications from physicians to fill the vacancy. Anyone interested can find the application [here](#).
- In January, the MAC will vote to elect a new MAC vice-chair. If members are interested, they can fill out this [form](#) or email DHHS.MACandBAC@Nebraska.gov
- Per our bylaws, Jennifer, the current vice-chair will become the chair in January.
- Jennifer brought up the idea to create a membership subcommittee. This subcommittee would review new member applications and assist MLTC with selecting new members.

- Renae motioned to vote to create this subcommittee and Brandi seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted to approve the creation of a membership subcommittee.
- The subcommittee will consist of 3 members. If MAC members are interested, they should email the MAC email. If more than 3 members express interest in this subcommittee, the committee will vote to select members.

IV. Beneficiary Advisory (BAC) Update

- The BAC elected their executive committee at their meeting right before the MAC meeting.
- Congratulations to the following BAC members
 - Chair: Mary
 - Vice-Chair: Amber
 - BAC Representative: Renae
- These members will serve as members on both the BAC and the MAC

V. Federal Legislative Update

- Jeremy gave an update on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).
 - Nebraska submitted their RHTP application on November 4th. At this time the application is not public due to the competitive nature of the application and funding.
 - Right now, Nebraska Medicaid is waiting to hear back from CMS regarding the amount of funding the state will receive. CMS has until December 31st to award funding to the states.
- Jeremy also gave an update regarding the provisions in H.R. 1
 - Nebraska Medicaid is waiting on guidance from CMS regarding the provisions that directly impact Medicaid.
 - The guidance from CMS will guide decisions that the state makes while implementing the required changes.
- Questions asked and comments given during this section of the meeting
 - Question: What impact will these provisions have on states?
 - Answer: All states will be impacted, but the degree, depth, and scope of the impact is to be determined based on guidance given from CMS. For a detailed list of provisions in the bill that will impact Medicaid, review the July MAC meeting minutes.
 - Comment: Phil complimented the agency on submitting the Rural Health Transformation Program on such a tight deadline.
 - Question: How many extra renewals will there be due to the twice a year renewal requirement?
 - Answer: This provision impacts those in the adult expansion group, so it is assumed that the number of renewals completed for that group will double.

- Comment: Jennifer shared that she is hearing that the application process is going quicker.
- Question: Jennifer reported that PAS hours have been cut consistently from 10 hours to 8 hours. Is there a policy that was implemented to make this change?
 - Answer: DHHS staff have not heard of a policy to cut PAS services. Jenn Clark noted that nothing has been changed on the AD waiver except that they have asked Area Agencies on Aging and the Leagues to look through some people's service need assessment to ensure accuracy. Jenn also noted that the AD waiver is being amended and there will be a cap on AD waiver services. The reason for this change is that the spending on AD waiver services has increased drastically over the past 10 years. The public comment period for this begins December 1st.
- Question from a member of the public: Are there plans in H.R.1 to cut HCBS services?
 - Answer: There was nothing in the H.R.1 Bill that specifically cut HCBS services.

VI. Educational Discussion –Behavioral Health and Mental Health – Access to Services

- Rachel Meier and Bethany Nelson gave a presentation on access to Behavioral Health and Mental Health Services. The slides from this presentation can be found in the [MAC meeting slides](#) from slides 9 through 21.
- The majority of services mentioned in the presentation are also available via telehealth if the individual agrees to receiving the services that way.
- It is recommended that anyone who is in crisis starts by calling 988.
- The presenters mentioned that effective January 1, 2026, there will be 7 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) across the state of Nebraska. These clinics will be a one-stop shop for all behavioral health care needs and the services provided will be free to Medicaid members.
- CCBHC locations are listed below
 - CenterPointe – Lincoln
 - Community Alliance – Omaha
 - Heartland Counseling Services – South Sioux City
 - Heartland Family Services – Omaha
 - Lutheran Family Services – Lincoln
 - South Central Behavioral Health Services – Hastings
 - The Well – Norfolk
- Questions during the presentation
 - Question: How will people get to the CCBHCs?
 - Answer: The CCBHCs have resources to assist with some transportation.
 - Question: How does a location qualify to become a CCBHC?

- Answer: For this first round there was a competitive bid process. The locations had to have a completed application, and be able to provide all CCBHC services.
- Question: Where can people find behavioral health information?
 - Answer: If you're looking for behavioral health services in Nebraska, check out the Network of Care website linked [here](#).
- Question: How do people find out about CCBHCs?
 - Answer: The CCBHCs are required to do marketing and outreach as part of their contract with DHHS. Behavioral Health is also working on outreach.

VII. Open Discussion / Public Comment

- Question: Is Medicaid planning to revise ABA definitions and if so, have any ABA providers been included in that conversation?
 - Answer: Yes, the new definitions will be posted soon, and the public can provide feedback. ABA providers were included in the conversations.
- Question: Are there any updates regarding the ABA hearing that took place?
 - Answer: MLTC is not aware of any updates. They recommend reaching out to the senator's office for more information.
- Comment: There has been a delay in ABA provider credentialing. Bethany will connect with this individual to assist with the question.
- Comment: A beneficiary has been denied services by their MCO and wants to know the options they have. Jeremy will reach out and connect with this beneficiary.
- Comment: A parent had questions regarding service changes to her son's AD waiver. Jenn Clark will reach out and talk with this parent.
- Question: Phil asked if there were any updates regarding legislation action to update the Open Meetings Act.
 - Answer: No updates at this time. We will follow up if we hear more.

VIII. Confirm the Next Meeting Time and Location

MLTC confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Omaha, Nebraska with the exact location to be announced. There **will** be a virtual option for this meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Committee at 4:53 p.m. CST.