



**Medicaid Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2026**

The Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Thursday, July 16, 2026, from 3 to 5 p.m. CST at the Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was in-person and members of the public were able to join virtually. A call-in option was also available.

MAC members in attendance:

Akshay Nathan, Allison Sothan, Amber Corbin, Christopher Moyer, Dave Miers, Eamon Maloney, Frank Clepper, Dan Pierce, Jenelle Miller, Jennifer Hansen, Kevin Low, Mary Phillips, Philip Gray, Rebecca Lechner, Renae Wacker

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) employees in attendance: Bailey Graden, Celia Wightman, Jacob Kawamoto, Jennifer Clark, Kimberly Vaughn, Sara Lawless

Members of the public in attendance:

Amy Behnke, Amy Graham, Anna, Brad Meurrens, Candi Koenig, Cleo Zagurski, Collin, Curt, Safranek, Dan, Daniel Mintz, David Slattery, Dee, Donna Barker, Erin Maier, John Stansel, Katherine Houlden, Kelsey Arends, Kristen Larsen, Lisa Spellman, M, Marcy Berry, Marie Woodhead, Meghan Chaffee, Monica, Ned Stringham, Nikki Krause, Phil Galewitz, Rachel Ward, Ricki Le, Shauna Adams, Simren, Steph, Stu, Themis Gomes, Tori Navickas, Vicki Jessup

MAC members not in attendance: Brandi Renner, Elizabeth Thelen, Melissa Inzauro

There were three call-in numbers in attendance.

I. Opening and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer at 3:02 p.m. CST.

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

II. Review and Approval of May 21, 2026, Draft Minutes

No edits were suggested to be made to the minutes. Kevin motioned to approve the minutes and Amber seconded. The May meeting minutes were approved.

III. Follow-ups from the May Meeting

MLTC informed that committee that a MAC/BAC flyer has been created. Paper copies were available at the meeting and Celia emailed out a PDF version.

IV. Announcements

MLTC Announcements

- Jacob Kawamoto has been promoted to Deputy Director of Policy & Plan Management
- The MAC/BAC Annual Report is posted on the [website](#)
 - The report includes information from the July 2025 meeting to the March 2026 meeting
- The July 2026 updates to the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Medicaid Service Definition can be viewed [here](#). Public comment ran from December 2025-January 2026.
 - Question: Why was the 20 hour cap put into place and why is it necessary?
 - Answer: MLTC will take this as a follow up and provide more information at the next meeting.
 - Comment: One of the MCOs ABA rates are lower than the others and that same MCO has a slower turnaround time for payments
 - Response: MLTC staff met with the commenter after the meeting to figure out which MCO they were talking about. MLTC will look into this.
 - Question: What is the status of the 1915i waiver?
 - Answer: MLTC will take this as a follow up and provide more information at the next meeting.
 - Comment: The final draft of the ABA definitions is not the version that was posted for public comment.
 - Answer: MLTC will look into this and provide a response at the next meeting.
- MLTC staff asked if the committee would be okay with expanding the November meeting by 30 minutes. This would allow for adequate time on the agenda to discuss all relevant end of year materials.
 - Philip moved to extend the November meeting. Amber seconded the motion. The committee voted to extend the November meeting.
- Nebraska State Plan Amendment (SPA) and Waiver Updates
 - NE 26-0005: Certified Lactation Consultants – Prenatal Plus Program
 - Effective July 1, 2026, certified lactation consultants (CLCs) will be added as an approved provider type for breastfeeding instruction sessions under the Prenatal Plus Program.
 - NE 26-0006: Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) Program
 - Effective July 1, 2026, the Nebraska Medicaid EPC program will be discontinued.

- EPC provider claims incurred through June 30, 2026, will be reimbursed using the EPC fee schedule rate. Effective July 1, 2026, EPC provider services will be reimbursed primarily through the Physician fee schedule.
- No action is required from participating EPC providers
- NE 26-0007: Nursing Facility Inflation Factor
 - Effective July 1, 2026, the inflation factor for the nursing facility rate period is -2.07%
- NE 26-0008: Intermediate Care Facility Inflation Factor
 - Effective July 1, 2026, the inflation factor for intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities (ICF-DD) is 24.0%
- NE 26-0009: Inpatient Hospital Rates
 - Effective July 1, 2026, MLTC will update the Medicaid State Plan to reflect updated effective dates for payment rates for psychiatric residential treatment facilities and transplant diagnosis-related group direct medical education payments
- NE 26-0010: Outpatient Hospital and Professional Provider Rates
 - Effective July 1, 2026, MLTC will update the Medicaid State Plan to reflect current payment rate effective dates for state fiscal year 2027
- There are no waiver updates at this time
- Question: Does the Division of Disability and Aging (DDA) or Medicaid oversee the HCBS Waivers?
 - Answer: DDA oversees and administers the waivers, it is Medicaid money that funds it

MAC Member Announcements

- Question: How will H.R.1 impact the budgets?
 - Answer: MLTC needs a specific request in order to look into this and to provide a correct answer.

V. Beneficiary Advisory (BAC) Update

Mary gave the BAC Update. She shared that the group had an InterRAI discussion and created two subcommittees. She stated that the BAC would like to include MAC members in these subcommittees if there is interest.

VI. H.R.1 Updates

MLTC staff gave an update on the Medicaid Work Requirements and introduced Medicaid eligibility changes for noncitizens. The slides for this presentation can be found on the MAC webpage.

Medicaid Work Requirements (MWR)

- Data Reporting
 - MLTC is gathering data and will bring it to the group when it's ready.

- Interim Final Rule (IFR)
 - MLTC has been reviewing the IFR. At this time there are no significant changes that need to be made to the way Nebraska Medicaid is operationalizing MWR.
- Processing MWR Renewals
 - MLTC has begun reviewing renewals for compliance with MWR.
- County-based temporary hardships
 - CMS has approved the high unemployment exemption for Dawson county.
 - CMS has approved the major disaster exemption for 5 counties – Arthur, Garden, Grant, Lincoln, Morrill
- Question: Has anyone been terminated due to not meeting work requirements?
 - Answer: Yes. MLTC will provide specific data when it is available.
- Question: Did the IFR restrict med frail more than what Nebraska Medicaid has?
 - Answer: CMS is releasing more guidance on this. At this time there are no changes to MLTC's med frail process that is posted on the MWR webpage.
- Question: Does the state review team determine medically frail?
 - Answer: Eligibility workers will not determine med frail. At this time, Nebraska Medicaid is accepting attestation for the med frail exemption.
- Question: What will verification look like when it is required?
 - Answer: MLTC will issue provider bulletins and guidance regarding this.
- Question: When does the high unemployment exemption go away?
 - Answer: It will stay in place until the counties cross over the high unemployment threshold percentage.

Medicaid Eligibility Changes for Noncitizens

- Effective, October 1, 2026, certain noncitizens will no longer be eligible for Medicaid.
- These noncitizens who meet all other eligibility requirements (such as income requirements), will still qualify for Medicaid after September 30, 2026
 - Lawful permanent residents, also known as green card holders, who have met the five-year waiting period or can be credited with 40 working quarters
 - Lawful permanent residents who used to be in one of the following groups:
 - Refugees
 - Asylees
 - Victims of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling, or parents

- Veterans or active-duty military and spouses or unmarried dependents who also have qualified non-citizen status
 - Amerasian immigrants
 - Iraqi and Afghani special immigrants
 - Certain Ukrainian and Afghan parolees
 - People whose deportation is being withheld
- Cuban and Haitian entrants
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants, including individuals from Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau
- Lawfully present non-citizens who are:
 - Pregnant, or
 - Under the age of 19
- There may be other options for medical assistance available to those who lose their Medicaid coverage
 - 599 CHIP
 - Emergency Medical Services for Aliens (EMSA)
- Noncitizens who may be affected should
 - Make sure Nebraska has their current mailing address and phone number.
 - Respond to any requests for information from DHHS.
 - Schedule all medical, dental, and behavioral health appointments and refill prescriptions now.
- Question: Does EMSA cover behavioral health emergencies?
 - Answer: MLTC will take this back as a follow up for next meeting.
- Question: When will notices and information go out to the public?
 - Answer: MLTC is actively working on finalizing website updates, notices, and public information.

VII. Maternal Health Presentation

MLTC Staff gave a presentation on Maternal Health services for Nebraska Medicaid beneficiaries. The slide deck can be found on the MAC webpage.

- If MAC members are interested in being in a meeting to discuss Doula services that will be covered by Medicaid beginning January 1, 2029, email dhhs.maternalhealth@nebraska.gov for more information.
- Question: Does 599 CHIP have it's own application?
 - Answer: No, individuals can use the general Medicaid application and if eligible will be placed in the 599 CHIP eligibility category.

VIII. Open Discussion / Public Comment

- Donna Barker read from a report that she wrote titled "Medical Access Barriers for Disabled Residents in Western Nebraska" and shared the report with the committee. If you would like a copy of the report, please email DHHS.MACandBAC@nebraska.gov

- Question: What is the procedure to get out of state care? What are the regulations surrounding this? Can the committee see the written process? Is there anything on the website regarding this?
 - Answer: MLTC will take these questions back as follow up items. These questions will also be discussed in the BAC's subcommittee surrounding this topic.
- Frank spoke to the MCO process for getting out of state care and mentioned that beneficiaries should consult with their case managers to request services from an out of state provider. The MCO can create a single case agreement with an out of state provider to allow care outside of Nebraska.
- Comment: ABA provider's Medicaid number is taking 2x longer than it used to receive.
 - Response: MLTC will look into this.

IX. Confirm the Next Meeting Time and Location

MLTC confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Omaha, Nebraska at the South Omaha Library. There **will not** be a virtual option for this meeting for MAC members. Members of the public will be able to join virtually.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Committee at 5:09pm.