

Conflict of Interest Policy

Nebraska's Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) includes a diverse and representative mix of different perspectives from beneficiaries, advocates of beneficiaries, and providers.

Because many of the people who will serve on the MAC likely also serve on the boards or committees of nonprofit community organizations, other advocacy groups, or work themselves or for organizations that serve, support, or otherwise assist people who receive Medicaid services, it is possible that an item being discussed by the MAC might present a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, between these separate roles.

This policy attempts to deal with this possibility in a way fair to committee members.

Section 49-1499, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, says the following:

- A. A potential conflict of interest exists when you, in the discharge of official duties, would be required to take an action or make any decision that may cause financial benefit or detriment to you, a member of your immediate family or a business with which you are associated which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public.
 - B. Immediate family shall mean a child residing in your household, your spouse or an individual claimed by you or your spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.
 - C. Business with which you are associated shall mean a business:
 - a. of which you are the sole proprietor;
 - b. in which you are a partner, director, officer, or employee; and/or,
 - c. in which you or a member of your immediate family is a stockholder of closed cooperation stock worth \$1,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than 5 percent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth \$10,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than 10 percent equity interest.
1. At the first meeting of each calendar year, MAC members shall disclose any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest of which they are aware, using a form provided for that purpose. These disclosures shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.
 2. When a committee member is aware of an additional, different, or removal of a conflict or potential conflict of interest, they must update their current form and this update shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.
 3. Committee members with a conflict of interest must not participate in committee discussions other than to offer information or answer questions. When a vote is taken, a committee member with a conflict must not vote. The minutes shall reflect that the member abstained from the vote.
 4. Any committee member who is unsure whether there is a conflict or potential conflict of interest must raise the matter prior to any discussion or vote on the issue.