



Native American Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC)

Minutes for October 26, 2020

Time: Start 1:00pm **End:** 3:30 pm **Place:** Virtual meeting

Chair: Nicole Comeaux, Medicaid Director

Committee Members/Call In: Megan Pfeffer, MAD Deputy Director; Theresa Belanger, Medical Assistance Division (MAD) NA Liaison; Karmela Martinez, ISD Director; Shelly Begay, OOS; Kari Armijo, Deputy Secretary, OOS; Elisa Walker-Moran MAD Deputy Director; Lorelei Kellogg, MAD Deputy Director; Linda Gonzales, MAD Deputy Director; Sandra Winfrey/Tina Valencia, Albuquerque Area IHS; Anthony Yepa, Kewa Pueblo; Jean Pino, Zia Pueblo; Dr. Rufus Greene, San Felipe Pueblo; Emily Haozous, Ft. Sill Apache; Eldred Lesansee, IAD; Ezra Bayles, Taos Pueblo;

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
I. Invocation/Introductions	Jean Pino gave the invocation. Introductions were done. A special introduction was done for the new Native American Liaison for the Office of the Secretary for HSD – Shelly Begay	Completed	All	Completed
II. Review/approval of July 21, 2020 minutes	NATAC reviewed and approved minutes with no changes. Jean Pino gave the motion to approve the minutes.	Completed	All	Completed
III. Behavioral Health Services (BHSD) Update	Dr. Neal Bowen was unable to attend this meeting.	None	BHSD	Next NATAC
IV. Income Support Division (ISD) Update	Karmela Martinez provided COVID updates for ISD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal is to keep families and ISD staff safe at home • 90% of ISD staff work from home • ISD does have curbside assistance from 10-12 daily. (This should be a last resort) • There is an increase in staff on the call lines • There are tutorials available that are user friendly for YESNM • Karmela’s office applies for maximum SNAP benefits every time it is offered at the federal level during COVID • Recertifications have been extended during COVID • ISD is working with Public Education Department (PED) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) on Pandemic EBT benefits for students who were receiving the free lunch program at school 	None	ISD	Next NATAC

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISD makes sure parents are applying for free/reduced lunches through their schools • Benefits are issued automatically on EBT card and have been issued for the fall semester 			
V. Review of Graphs	<p>Megan Pfeffer provided updates on the Medicaid data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of the two care coordination levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question was asked if there is follow up on the 5% who refuse care coordination. Response - The MCOs and work groups are working on engaging these members ○ Comment – The MCOs receive the PM/PM whether these members are reached or not 	None	Medical Assistance Division (MAD)	Next NATAAC
VI. Medicaid Update	<p>Nicole Comeaux provided updates on Medicaid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an extension of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) through January 2021 • MAD continues to receive the Families First CARES Act federal match of 6.2% • The state will continue to comply with Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements (keep individuals on Medicaid; no disenrollment during pandemic) • Growth in Medicaid continues at 1.5% per month (7,000 to 8,000 new enrollees per month). Prior to Pandemic it was about 1% growth per month • Shortfall in Medicaid budget projected to be \$67 million in FY22 • Update on Indian Managed Care Entity (IMCE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work has resumed and Molina was selected by the Naat'aanii Development Corporation (NDC) as the MCO ○ MAD reached out to CMS with eligibility and technology questions. CMS determined that statutory language for IMCE to be "Navajo only" is not permissible but Native American is allowable. CMS defines a Native American as an individual eligible for IHS ○ MAD established work groups and detailed work plan for IMCE ○ Go live is scheduled for 06/01/2021. There will be a special enrollment period • Lots of work is going on at Medicaid. Send us your questions and concerns. • Medicaid is exploring every federal waiver opportunity that comes along 	Mr. Yepa asked that MAD share the documentation from CMS	MAD	Next NATAAC

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – HSD assures food distributions and shelter 			
VII. Public Health Nurse billing discussion	<p>Ezra Bayles from Taos Health Center led the discussion on Public Health Nursing (PHN) billing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is challenging to know how to bill, what to bill for, etc. The claims come back as denied and the health center is trying to understand why Health center wants to push this forward to see what services are allowable, how to bill for the service, what the rates are, and the status of the PHN billing document that AAIHS has been waiting for MAD to review 	MAD will review PHN document	Kari Armijo	Next NATAAC
VIII. Tribal Consultation/Tribal Notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theresa Belanger informed group of CMS' decision to remove the Native American Healers as a covered benefit under the Mi Via Waiver. MAD sent a letter out to all Tribal leaders explaining CMS' decision There is a formal Tribal Consultation scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 10:45 a.m. to discuss the reimbursement for pharmacy dispensing requested by Santo Domingo Pueblo <p>Per the request of NATAAC, Theresa went over the 15 Tribal Notifications that were sent out this past quarter, including those that are still open for comment</p>	None	Theresa Belanger	Next NATAAC
IX. NATAAC Strategic Plan	The Strategic Planning document will be continued at the next NATAAC	None	MAD	Next NATAAC
X. Closing, schedule next meeting	The next NATAAC meeting will be scheduled after the new year when Tribal leaders appoint members to the 2021 NATAAC	Letter from Secretary Scrase to Tribal leaders regarding NATAAC	Theresa Belanger, MAD/Shelly Begay, HSD	January 2021

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Belanger
Recorder

November 13, 2020
Date