



NATIVE AMERICAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2025

Time: Start 1:10 pm End: 4:15 pm Place: Virtual meeting

Chair: Theresa Belanger, Medical Assistance Division (MAD) Native American Liaison

Committee Members Call In: Kyra Ochoa, OOS Deputy Director; **Dana Flannery**, Medicaid Director, Heidi Capriotti, Elisa Walker-Moran, Michal Hayes MAD Deputy Directors; Amanda Veracka, Christopher Bartsch, Jeanelle Romero MAD; Nick Boukas, Lisa Howley, Annabelle Martinez BHSD; Janet Johnson DOH; Michelle Tafoya Santa Clara Pueblo, Yolandra Gomez, Jicarilla Apache; April Ruben, Laguna Pueblo Emily Haozous Ft. Sill Apache; Ezra Bayles Taos Pueblo; Lena Gachupin, Anthony Yega Santo Domingo Pueblo; Leonard Montoya Ohkay Owingeh; Helena Burbank, Dr. Leonard Thomas AAIHS; Michele Morris Navajo Nation; Lionel Dawes NAIHS; Turquoise Care MCOs – Bonnie Vallo, Winona Gishai BCBS; Shelly Begay, Drew Peterson, Mellisa Logg UHC; Scott Atole, Frieda Begay, Ana Cadenas, Esbeidy Vargas, Jessica Chavez PHP; Shari Roanhorse-Aguilar, Sharon Notah, Josie Barney Molina.

Guest speakers: Darryl Madalena and Joshua Guliford, BeWellNM

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
I. Invocation/Introductions	All HCA/MAD staff, MCO reps, guest speakers, ISD, and NATAC reps introduced themselves.	None	All	N/A
II. Review of the March 17, 2025 minutes	No changes were requested to March 2025 minutes. Minutes finalized	Completed	All	N/A
III. 1115 Waiver Updates, Federal Landscape, SB3 Dana Flannery, MAD	Legislative recap from 2025 Session: HB 117 – Death Certificates by Physician Assistants. No Medicaid impact. HB 217 - Doula credentialing & Access Ac. Initial credentialing will be with DOH, and MAD will have a small part. More to come on this. SB88 - Medicaid Trust Fund and State Medicaid Supported Fund - There is some vulnerability with Medicaid at the federal level at this time. The Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) changed some of the language in SB 88. The Trust Fund is something we can tap into if we run out of funds for Medicaid. The unencumbered money over a certain dollar amount will be part of this trust fund. Medicaid is highly reliant on the federal share of monies. SB 219 - Medical Psilocybin Act. No Medicaid impact. HB 56 - Reimbursement for birthing centers- MAD working on reimbursement parity. HB 357 – Mi Via Waiver Program Gross receipts tax - MAD will be working on this.	ongoing	Dana Flannery, MAD	Next NATAC

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	<p>SB 39 – Add Classes to Prior Authorization Drugs – MAD will be working on this.</p> <p>SB 42 – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Program – MAD will be working on this.</p> <p>SB 249 – Health Care Provider Gross Receipts – MAD will be working on this.</p> <p>One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) HR 1 update – the HCA and others are watching this very closely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.5 billion could be impacted for directed payments • Retroactive Medicaid coverage could shorten from 3 months to one month • More people could have a gap in Medicaid coverage • The administrative burden on Medicaid work requirements • 100% Medicare could change for hospitals and nursing facilities • Medicaid rates could be cut, and services could be diminished <p>These decreases could shift costs to hospitals, and the hospitals lose funding, creating possible closures.</p> <p>The NATAC meetings will continue to provide updates on HR 1-OBBBA. The Four Walls SPA was approved last week by CMS which allows IHS and Tribal 638s to see patients beyond the 4 walls of the clinic or hospital and still bill the OMB rate.</p> <p>The Medicaid Innovative Collaborative – Looks at all the health-related social needs the state is making and find solutions for them. Companies pitched their ideas to the MCOs last week. New technology may be used to address these challenging health problems. The HCA will be working with these companies along with the MCOs.</p>			
IV. Sun Bucks – Zach Gonzales, ISD SNAP program	<p>Sun Bucks began in 2024. This is the second year of issuance. Our numbers are similar to last year's numbers – about 289,000 children served, \$34 million dollars; this year's budget is \$39 million. This is a one-time issuance program for each student. Data exists from past use, so parents don't need to recertify each summer. They can get the data from the eligibility system. Students are also eligible for Sun Bucks if they are considered homeless, migrant or in foster care. If people are on the WIC or FDIPR program, they are automatically eligible for Sun Bucks. NM PED is hosting the application process this year.</p> <p>Zach provided the Public Education Department (PED) and ISD links in the power point.</p>	Carmela Quitigua, IAD, asked about Sun Bucks for Native American children in custody. Zach will follow up with her.	Zachary Gonzales, ISD	Completed Next NATAC
V. Senate Bill 3 – Kristie Brooks, HCA, Director of	Kristie Brooks – Came to the HCA 6 weeks ago to work on Senate Bill 3. Kristie has a long history of working with Tribes and is a Tribal member of the Choctaw Tribe of OK.	If you have questions or concerns you	Kristie Brooks, BH HCA	Next NATAC

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BH Transformation & Innovations	<p>SB 3 – Establishes the BH Reform and Investment Act. Passed by NM Governor in February 2025.</p> <p>We are looking at this from a regional approach. Each region will be established by our partners at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Those regions will be able to have 5 bh priorities so that they can request funding over a 4-year plan. The region will consist of local agencies, government officials, Tribes/Nations/Pueblos on how to take care of all New Mexicans with this reform bill. The funds will be managed by HCA, BHSD, MAD, AOC, Legislative Finance Committee, and a brand new BH executive committee that will be unveiled next week.</p> <p>The BH Executive Committee names who will be part of this committee. It will consist of the secretary of HCA, director of MAD, Director of BHSD, Director of AOC and 3 behavioral health experts. Last week AOC announced the 3 BH experts. Meet quarterly to review reports and plans that are coming up through the regions. Each region will be different from another. We are looking at rural, urban, frontier, tribal and school communities. The key goal for the executive committee is to designate the BH regions, review/approve regional plans and project management strategy. June 24, 2025, BH Executive Committee first meeting hybrid meeting. The regional plan is a plan developed collaboratively within your region. AOC has put out a lot of information and requests for feedback.</p> <p>By June 30, 2027, the Executive Committee will have identified a government entity within each region to give back evaluation, performance measures, and feedback. An evaluation guideline goes along with the standard of service to show success in the programs that you are seeking services for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the Regions • Addressing the priorities and funding gaps • Length of Service • Credentialing (streamlining the process) • BH Service limitations • 988 Coordination 	<p>can reach out to Kristie Brooks at kristie.brooks@hca.nm.gov</p> <p>Annabelle Martinez asked that billing concerns be sent to Theresa to let us know about any billing issues people are having and credentialing questions</p>		
VI. Be WellNM – Darryl Madalena & Joshua Guliford	<p>BeWell carriers are BCBS, Molina, PHP, UHC and Best Health.</p> <p>There is no wrong door when you go to BeWell and are screened to see if you are eligible for Medicaid. There is no cost to apply for these benefits. The Health Care Affordability Fund helps to fund BeWell so the cost of premiums is reduced. Can go up to 400% of the FPL. Native Americans can apply any time not just during open enrollment. New Mexico Premium Assistance (MAP) is available to Native Americans to reduce the cost of premiums. BeWell compliments IHS and Tribal 638 clinics. They are here</p>	 NMHX NA PPT 2025 (002).pdf	Darry Madalena	Completed

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	to assist with cost of care outside of IHS. There are about 2,400 Native Americans in NM receiving BeWell benefits.			
VII. CHW/CHR updates Chris Bartsch	Working on a repeal/replace LOD providers will no longer have to attach a copy of the order to the claim. Right now, there is a state standing order that our CMO signed. Many CHR/CHWs work in a facility that has where they have an ordering provider, we are adding in that if you are supervised by a licensed provider, you can use their order. There are 5 codes listed on the standing order, claims came in with different codes. We will share a list of specific codes as a primary dx. You can use this new list of codes. New Mexico Medicaid won't cover dual coverage Medicaid members. A CHR/CHW that is working at an FQHC will be paid at the fee schedule rate rather than the FQHC PPS rate. If you are struggling to get claims paid or enrolled in NM Medicaid, please reach out to Chris Bartsch.	Flow chart or check list for CHR/CHWs is being worked on	Chris Bartsch Christopher.bartsch@hca.nm.gov	Completed
VIII. Justice Involved – Re-entry Waiver – Heidi Capriotti	The average daily population of incarceration is about 11,000. For years we have had Just Health in the Medicaid program for people that are incarcerated. We suspend Medicaid while incarcerated rather than terminate their Medicaid. Now with Just Health plus program we can reach into prisons for 3 prelease services: Case Management, MAT, and 30 supply of meds. We are going to phase this in slowly. HCA has a team approach to this. We are hoping to get Just Health into Tribal jails also. Just Health will also be working facilities with CYFD youth (juvenile justice) that are incarcerated and leaving incarceration that will also roll out July 1, 2025. Pre-release services start 90 days before release. Care management includes behavioral and physical health assessments and a warm hand off to a case manager outside of the carceral facility.	ongoing	Heidi Capriotti	Next NATAC
IX. MCO updates	Each of the 4 MCOs updated NATAC on the outreach and engagement that has been happening for the past month and what they have coming up in the next month. This will continue at each NATAC.	Mr. Montoya from Ohkay Owingeh is asking for the number of tribal members in each MCO	Turquoise Care MCOs	Next NATAC
XI. Comments/questions/updates	At the next NATAC can the MCOs go over their VAS? Distinction between FFS and MCOs	Next meeting	Turquoise Care MCOs	Next NATAC
XII. Closing, next meeting	Next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2025		Theresa Belanger	

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Belanger

August 25, 2025