



Native American Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC)

Special COVID 19 Meeting

Minutes for March 27, 2020

Time: Start 3:30pm

End: 4:50 pm

Place: Santa Fe (phone meeting)

Chair: Nicole Comeaux, New Mexico Medicaid Director

Committee Members Call In: Megan Pfeffer, Karmela Martinez, Neal Bowen, Kari Armijo, Jean Pino, Iris Reano, Valyn Candelaria, Steven Trancosa, Jennifer Nanez, Theresa Belanger, Mary Scott, Ryan O'Connor, Emily Haozous, Lonna Valdez, Rick Vigil, Craig Sandoval, Ezra Bayles, Valerie Namoki, Tina Valencia, Sandra Winfrey, Imelda Nunez, Governor Quanchello, Poqueen Rivera, Dr. Rufus Greene, Anthony Yepa, Dave Panana, Monica Vigil, and Eldred Lesansee

Absent Members:

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
I. Invocation/Introductions	Former Governor Rick Vigil gave the invocation. Introductions were done.	None	All	Completed
II. Medical Assistance Division (MAD) Director Update – Nicole Comeaux	<p>Nicole Comeaux requested this special NATAC meeting due to COVID 19. There is a list of things she wanted to make NATAC aware of and hear their concerns. Federal partners are allowing a variety of changes in services and programs with flexibility.</p> <p>Steps NM Medicaid has taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAD applied for three different 1135 waivers (information was attached to the NATAC invite). • The State Plan Amendment (SPA) would allow us the authority to increase the federal poverty level amount to 200% of FPL for adults and 400% of FPL for children so that it would allow more people to be eligible for Medicaid. We are waiting for CMS approval. • MAD is making it as easy as possible to get people to apply for health care coverage. • Anyone who is on Medicaid at this time or is newly enrolled will not be terminated for the length of the pandemic and will keep their medical coverage. • RX refills- members can get up to a 90 day supply if the drug is not in short supply. Early refills can also be done. For controlled substances, a request for a refill can be made when there is a 7 day supply left. • Physicians can be licensed in another state and serve NM members. • We are suspending requirements for prior authorizations and extending prior authorizations that MCOs have given. 	<p>Theresa will share the NM COVID page</p> <p>NM Medicaid COVID-19</p>	Theresa	Next NATAC

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Letter of Direction (LOD) was sent out and we will be sending out provider supplements for FFS providers on the LOD. • Theresa is working with Conduent on having a training on the telehealth billing. <p>There was discussion on Tribal Notification/Consultation and how it would be done at this time. Normally we would provide Tribal notification first before submitting a waiver to CMS. Due to COVID, the 1135 Waiver had to be submitted early before a Tribal notification could be sent out. As we get feedback from CMS, we will have information posted on our website.</p>	Summary document of Tribal Notifications	Theresa	Next NATAAC
III. Income Support Division (ISD) update – Karmela Martinez	<p>ISD has 34 eligibility offices statewide. The following modifications have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All offices are open and operational, but we are encouraging people to use the YES NM site. A video is on the website on how to use on-line access. • Call center staff has doubled to handle all the calls coming in. There were 16,000 calls last week with minimal to no wait time. • If someone must, they can go to the ISD field office. There are cones directing traffic. “Carhops” will greet them and assist them with an application. • Some people will need to go into the office if they don’t arrive by car and will be placed widely apart in the office. • ISD understands it is hard to provide income for whatever reason. They are working with the federal partners to relax the income verification and interviews requirement. • ISD will be posting the changes to better serve their partners and clients. 	Next meeting	Karmela Martinez	Next NATAAC
IV. Behavioral Health Services (BHSD) update - Neal Bowen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a BHSD LOD to expand BH services telephonically to make it possible to receive services in home rather than face to face. This applies to Medicaid MCOs and FFS. Directions are available for all of that through the LOD. We want to keep services available to people at this difficult time. • BH services are considered essential services. • Medicare patients are eligible for services too. 	Next meeting	Neil Bowen	Ongoing

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BHSD pays to support the NM Crisis and Access line (855NMCRISIS). They are open 24/seven, 365 days a year. The line is for identifying services that are out there. You don't have to be in crisis to call that line. <p>There is also a warm line staffed by peers (855-466-7100) and you can text between 6-11 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BHSD staff has been busy with identifying housing and shelter services. <p>Jennifer Nanez (AAIHS) - Dr. Bowen will work with the NM BH Provider Association at the federal and state level to access care and make it easier for individuals to get services.</p>			
Other	<p>Ezra – Taos Telehealth billing questions. Use 0728 billing; don't use the 0919 code.</p> <p>The largest DME provider was asked to provide a proposal to get equipment into the Pueblos and the precautions they are taking.</p> <p>Kewa Pueblo Health Center - Will the state consider reimbursing the pharmacists at the OMB rate</p>	<p>Send out additional information</p> <p>Follow up with IAD</p> <p>Next meeting</p>	<p>Kari Armijo</p> <p>Theresa</p> <p>Kari Armijo</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Next Meeting	Next meeting date is pending.	Work with MAD and HSD for date	Theresa	To be determined

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Belanger
Recorder

June 10, 2020
Date