




Native American Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC)
MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2023
Time: Start 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Chair: Shelly Begay, Native American Liaison, Human Services Department Office of the Secretary
Recorder: Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, Medical Assistance Division (MAD)

Attendees: Leonard Montoya Ohkay Owingeh; Iris Reano Kewa Pueblo; April Ruben Laguna Pueblo; Dr. Alanna Dancis MAD Medical Director; Elisa Walker-Moran MAD Deputy Director; Charlie Verploegh Kewa Pueblo; Charlene Nelson AAIHS; Colinda Vallo BHSD Native American Liaison; Anthony Yepa Kewa Pueblo; Lena Gachupin Kewa Pueblo; Ezra Bayles Taos Pueblo; Tracy Sanchez AAIHS; Monica Vigil Nambe Pueblo; Racheal Pyne Picuris Pueblo; Ryan Martinez Nambe Pueblo

Guests: Roy Burt MAD; Anabelle Martinez MAD Benefits and Reimbursement Bureau; Elisa Wrede HSD OOS; Suzanne Duran-Vigil ISD; Anabel Mendoza ISD; Patricia Wade ISD

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
I. Invocation- Welcome & Introductions	Leonard Montoya from Ohkay Owingeh provided the invocation for the meeting. A moment of silence was offered for the passing of former Governor Rick Vigil from Tesuque Pueblo. He was a very active member of NATAC since its founding.	Completed	All	Completed
II. Review & approval of 6/26/2023 minutes	No changes to the June 26, 2023 minutes. Minutes were approved by the Committee.	Completed	All	Completed; next NATAC agenda will be developed by Committee
III. Billable Services for Tribes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Health Care Delivery Fund • Q & A  RHCDF_Slides_0918 23.pptx	<p>Elisa Wrede from the Human Services Department Office of the Secretary talked about the Rural Health Care Delivery Fund which was an appropriation from the 2023 Legislature (SB 7) to provide \$80 million in funding for state fiscal years 2024-2026 to rural counties in New Mexico to defray operating losses for new or expanded services. The criteria are that the county must have a population below 100,000. The Governor also piloted the New Mexico Health Care Access Champion fund which allowed for expedited funding to begin as early as November 1, 2023 to awardees. The Rural Health Care Delivery Fund monies will begin January 1, 2024 to awardees.</p> <p>There was discussion about parts of counties in NM that are considered rural but based on the population of the county, they did not qualify for the grant (ie. parts of Sandoval County are rural but since Rio Rancho is in Sandoval County, that puts it over 100,000 for population.)</p>	To change this would require the legislature to make the changes to the definition of rural county.	Elisa Wrede – MAD/OOS	Completed
IV. Medicaid Unwinding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Native Americans disenrolled • Federal changes • Letters sent out from ISD 	<p>Roy Burt from the Eligibility Bureau at MAD went over the unwinding process for Medicaid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended March 31, 2023. Continuous eligibility ended at this time. • Roy provided a table with information on Native American enrollment for April, May, and August 2023. • MAD initiated renewals March 1, 2023. 	None	Roy Burt -MAD	Follow up at next NATAC

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q & A  <p>Unwinding Graph for NATAAC.docx</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first cases to be closed were those financially ineligible people the first 3 months of the unwinding. They could apply for coverage through Be Well NM. For the rest of the population, the renewals will occur from May 2023 to February 2024. Renewals for the disabled, elderly and those with a nursing facility level of care renewals have been moved to February 2024. Ex-parte process – ISD can review data sources to determine financial eligibility to automatically renew people for 12 months. Procedural denials – denials due to individuals not turning in their renewal paperwork or not completing the verification process. If people renewed on time, ISD will send them a “Notice of Delay” stating that ISD is behind in processing applications, but their application will be reviewed. In the meantime, a Presumptive Eligibility (PE) could be done for the Medicaid member. The individual will be covered under that temporary Medicaid until a determination is made. ISD is contracting staff to assist with the volume of Medicaid renewals. ISD is considering a one-month grace period for procedural denials for individuals that were closed for not getting their paperwork back in time. The question was asked what does a denial based on “Procedural Reasons” mean? This is when a Medicaid member completes the renewal packet, but it isn’t complete. A denial is made if the Help Us Make a Decision - HUMAD information is not returned to ISD in a timely manner. Another question was asked if there has ever been a collaboration plan/strategy given to Tribes regarding the rural issues with the Tribes, mail issues, internet issues, etc. What about out stationed ISD workers at some reservation sites? Roy responded that Notices of Delay lets the client know we received their app and it is waiting for review and is still open. 150 contracted staff have been brought in to assist with apps. and that number will keep growing. We are doing a postcard campaign letting people know to expect an application renewal by mail or phone. A lot of correspondence is going out to NM ISD customers. 			
<p>V. Medicaid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1115 Waiver Health Care Authority (HCA) Provider Disenrollment Q & A  <p>Are your credentials up to date with Mec</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annabelle Martinez deputy director of Medicaid provided an update on the 1115 Medicaid Waiver Amendment. The renewal has been extended by CMS into next year. Health Care Authority update – new name for NM Medicaid. That change will take place July 1, 2024. It will include additional agencies ie. the Developmental Disabilities Division, the Division of Health Improvement and the State and Local Government Employees Division. More information to come in future months. Provider Disenrollment – During the PHE Medicaid suspended disenrolling Medicaid providers who did not submit their required documentation. Letters went out in June 2023 to providers that now need to submit their documents by November 5, 2023 otherwise they may be disenrolled from Medicaid. 	None	Annabelle Martinez - MAD	Follow up at next NATAAC

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VI. Discussion on Data Convening Conference https://cv.nmhealth.org/	Shelly Begay attended a two-day Tribal Data Convening meeting in August. The purpose was to review strategies that worked and didn't work during the PHE to get data out to/from Tribes. The convening was hosted by DOH and the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center. HSD is participating as a partner but not as a lead in this. A comment was made that the state and IHS is not getting data of the number of COVID cases that are rising in Tribal communities. Theresa mentioned that DOH (Janet Johnson) is sharing that info on our Tuesday calls with IAD and the Tribes. Another individual mentioned that many agencies are collecting data on Tribes that the Tribes aren't even aware of. Could there be a central repository for Tribes to use to access this data? Tribes need to look at data governance agreements on what data they want/don't want collected and shared.	None	Shelly Begay – HSD/OOS	Completed
VII. Kevin S. Appendix C	HSD and CYFD are in a final settlement agreement with plaintiffs regarding child welfare. This settlement agreement was signed in 2020; the state hasn't met its performance standards. In 2022 the state entered into a MOU with the plaintiffs in the hopes that more progress would be made in the settlement agreement. The Tribes have also weighed in on the terms of the settlement agreement. HSD and CYFD are negotiating a corrective action plan. It lays out information for the state to get on track and how to reach the requirements of the settlement agreement. Appendix C is about Indian Child Welfare. CYFD would like to meet with Tribes that have Native American children in custody starting with the Tribe with the largest number of kids in foster care, then meet with the Pueblos that are involved.	Ongoing	Phillip Perez - CYFD	Next NATAAC
VIII. Comments/Questions/Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't be Taken for a Ride • Billing outside the 4 walls • BHSD-Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAD Program Manager for Pharmacy asked Theresa to mention the Preferred Drug List (PDL) at the NATAAC meeting. She would like to know about positive outcomes from formularies IHS and Tribal 638s use that are working well. You can reach out to Theresa if you have any questions. • Billing outside the 4 Walls has been extended by CMS until 02/11/2025. • Awareness Campaign "Don't Be Taken for A Ride" August -December 2023. This is the illegal transport of vulnerable Native Americans to AZ promising BH services that are a scam. The scammers bill Medicaid for bogus services, then the individual has no way back to NM. PSAs, flyers, and brochures have been sent out to provide awareness. The FBI is involved. • Colinda Vallo provided from BH updates. The Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) RFA ended August 15, 2023. BHSD received 2 applicants. One was for a Mobile Crisis Team and the other application was for "calming centers". Applicants have not been notified they were selected yet. \$1.6 million is attached to the RFA. Date of execution of grants is October 16, 2023. Colinda will be the program manager for these two awardees. Contact Colinda if you are interested in applying for this funding or if you have questions. BHSD is interested in reaching out to providers that want to be Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC), especially Tribal entities. Emails have been sent out to Tribes. 	Ongoing	All; BHSD	Next NATAAC

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lena brought up Indirect Cost Rates (IDC) Tribal leadership allows are percentage of money to be taken out of 3rd party collections. She asked that other Tribes to look into this. Per Anthony Yepa this is a federal issue, not a state issue. HSD/MAD submitted our State Plan Amendment (SPA) to reimburse CHW/CHRs; still in negotiation with CMS on the SPA. 	Ezra – Is the reimbursement to CHRs going to be at the 100% FMAP?		
IX. Closing/Next meeting	<p>Next NATAAC is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023 from 1-4 pm.</p> <p>We will be having a pre-planning meeting for the NATAAC agenda a month before the next NATAAC. Lorelei would like to be in this meeting. We are looking at scheduling the meeting for the week of November 13th. Theresa will be in touch with committee members to schedule a good date/time.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned 3:56 pm.</p>	Send out draft minutes and agenda prior to meeting	Theresa Belanger - MAD	Next NATAAC

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Belanger

November 1, 2023

Recorder

Date