



**Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor**  
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 Alex Castillo Smith, Deputy Secretary  
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 Alanna Dancis, Acting Medicaid Director

## Native American Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

**Date: Monday, June 15, 2026, 9:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m., virtual on Teams**

| NATAC Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leonard Montoya (Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo); Patrick Aragon (Acoma); Anthony Yepa, Lena Gachupin (Santo Doming Pueblo); Emily Haozous (Picuris Pueblo); Iris Reano (Zia Pueblo); Michele Morris (Navajo Nation)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                             |
| HCA Agencies Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                             |
| Pharon, Morgan, HCA; Heidi, Capriotti, HCA; Trisstine Maroney, HCA; Amy Alexander, HCA; La Don, Woodson, HCA; Nick Boukas, HCA; Zachary, Larry, HCA; Kristen A, Borderswood, HCA; Aguilar, Cynthia, HCA; Chastity, Sandoval, HCA; Vanessa, Skrehot, HCA; Tamara, Espinoza, IAD; IAD; Jeanelle, Romero, C, HCA; Amy, Alexander, HCA; Elena Sanchez, HCA; Janet, Johnson, DOH; Christopher, Bartsch, HCA; Michelle Velarde, DWS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                             |
| Indian Health Services/Tribal 638 Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                             |
| None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                             |
| MCO Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                             |
| Sharilyn Roanhorse-Aguilar, Sharon Notah (Molina), Shelly Begay (BCBS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                             |
| Artificial Intelligent (AI)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                             |
| Michelle Notetaker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                             |
| Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 a.m.- Meeting called order</li> <li>Opening prayer- Leonard Montoya</li> <li>Land acknowledgement</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda Read over</li> <li>Welcome newest NATAC membership</li> </ul> |
| Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                             |
| <b>Native American Enrollment Data in New Mexico:</b> Pharon Morgan, MAD Tribal Liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native American population in New Mexico has shown steady and consistent growth over the last five years, increasing from just over 241,000 in 2020 to nearly 245,000 in 2024.</li> <li>Highest Native American population by county: McKinley, Cibola, San Juan, Rio Arriba and Sandoval counties</li> <li>Smallest Native American population by county: Mora, Sierra, Hidalgo, Harding and De Baca</li> <li>60% adults aged 18 to 64</li> <li>MCO enrollment data: April 2026, more than 125,000 Native American individuals enrolled across New Mexico programs in New Mexico               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FFS and Presbyterian Health Plan largest enrollment group</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |                                                                                                             |



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- The data reflects a growing population with strong enrollment participation, concentrated in key counties, and support by a wide range of Medicaid eligibility

**10 Things to Know about Medicaid in New Mexico:** Heidi Capriotti, Communications and Innovations

- Medicaid covers about 38% of the state population
- Approx. 70% of newly born (under 1 year old) residents qualify for Medicaid.
- American Indian/Alaska Native member are not required to participated in managed care and may use fee-for-service
- Significant federal changes begin as early as October; Lawfully present non-citizens will lose Medicaid coverage starting October 1 unless the state provides special funding. New Mexico legislature appropriated funds to continue coverage for eligible enrollees.
- A webpage for HR1 updates is available and update frequently. [Keep Your Benefits NM – New Mexico Health Care Authority](#)

#### NO QUESTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

**Director Dancis 2026 Priorities:** Heidi Capriotti, Communications and Innovations

- Director's 2026 priorities
  - Implement HR1 with minimal disruption to members;
  - Strengthen program integrity and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse.
  - Complete open projects while managing HR1 implementation
- NATAC membership: 12-13 tribes currently participate; Voice and representation are critical for shaping Medicaid
- Ordering and Referring Provider requirement extended to October 1

#### NO QUESTION FROM PARTICIPANTS

**Primary Care Payment Reform Value-Based Payment (PCPR-VBP):** Trisstine Maroney, Interagency Primary Care Lead

- PCPR is part of broader state payment reform
- Goal: Support high-quality, equitable primary care with incentive payments
- Based on State-directed payments for primary care providers
- Eligibility: Medicaid-certified, have MCO agreements, submit required data
- Currently required measures include next-available appointment, patient experience, and structural measures (e.g., SBRIT, quality improvement)
- Payments are made as a uniform percentage increase on eligible Medicaid claims

**Question:** Anthony Yepa: Referred to the Value based program under the MCO. Hard idea to sell to tribes. How will the OMB rate be affected with this program? This may be a



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major issue to address because of data sharing, private equity companies, duplication, and so forth.

**Rural Transformation Program (RHTP):** Elisa Wrede, Acting Rural Health Director

- Five-year federal initiative; New Mexico received over 211 million dollars in year one.
- Expected total around 1 billion dollars over five years (pending performance).
- Focus areas: access, workforce, sustainability, data, and community designed solutions.
- Community feedback shaped five initiatives:
  1. Healthy Horizons: expand specialty, maternal, chronic care, digital access.
  2. Rooted in New Mexico: rural workforce pipeline.
  3. Rural Health Innovation Fund: community-driven solutions; applications opening soon.
  4. Bridge to Resilience: technical assistance for financial stability of rural clinics/hospitals.
  5. Rural Health Data Hub: shared analytics and predictive planning.
- Applications for various components rolling out June–July.
- Strong need for marketing and outreach to tribes to ensure awareness.
- TA support will be provided; tribes encouraged to sign up for email updates.

**Question: Ask the NATAC members: How can we pass the word about RHTP?**

- Anthony Yepa: I have a list of community members who are interested and will share the information. Tribes need technical assistance on grant writing and navigating application processes.
- Iris Reano: Request for technical assistance on grant processing; will help tribes to apply for grants in the future. Applications need to be sent to tribal programs, CHR, social services, behavioral health departments, not just sent to governors' officers.
- Anthony Yepa: Governor of Acoma will be opening an Adolescent inpatient treatment center and social detox facilities; may the funding be assisted?
- Elise Wrede: Funding of RHTP can be used for the program; We can provide support to your question per federal funding mechanism.



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**Department of Workforce Solutions:** Michelle Velarde, DSW

- Mission to educate, empower, employ, and enforce.
- 24 America's Job Centers across New Mexico.
- Services free: computers, fax, space, job search assistance.
- Quarterly Native American workforce partnership meetings.
- Federal programs: rapid response, reemployment services, WOTC, job training.
- State initiatives: Step Up, Gateway homelessness support, SNAP/Medicaid work requirement assistance.
- Mobile units (Be Pro Be Proud trailer and Little Hercules) available for career outreach in communities.
- Pre-apprenticeship program for ages 16–24; several placements with Pueblos.
- Support for veterans including priority of service and stand-down events.
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) training dollars available.
- Tribal liaison: Rosina Espinoza.
- Transportation and outreach challenges noted by tribal participants.

**NO QUESTION FROM PARTICIPANTS**

- Next NATAC meeting: September 21, 2026 (9am-11am)
- Survey and in person meeting

**Closing Prayer: Leonard**

**Meeting Adjournment: 11:11 a.m.**