



## NATIVE AMERICAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (final)

### Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2025

**Time:** Start 1:05 pm    **End:** 4:00 pm    **Place:** Virtual meeting

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

**Committee Members Call In:** Dana Flannery, Medicaid Director; Heidi Capriotti MAD Deputy Director; Annabelle Martinez, Chastity Sandoval BHSD; Janet Johnson DOH; Michelle Tafoya Santa Clara Pueblo, April Ruben, Laguna Pueblo Emily Haozous Ft. Sill Apache; Lena Gachupin, Anthony Yepa Santo Domingo Pueblo; Leonard Montoya Ohkay Owingeh; Helena Burbank, John Rael, Randall Morgan AAIHS; Michele Morris Navajo Nation; Marie Begay, NAIHS; LaDon Woodson MAD; Alyssia Beltran, Jessica Moriarty, Maxwell Verhey, Marcie Mckinley, MAD: **Turquoise Care MCOs** – Bonnie Vallo, Julia Platero BCBS; Shelly Begay, Mellisa Logg UHC; Jessica Chavez PHP; Shari Roanhorse-Aguilar, Sharon Notah, Molina.

**Guest speakers:** Kristie Brooks, Dir. BH Transformation & Innovations; Lorrina Rivera, HCA Systems Bureau; Kristin Borderswood HCA Long Term Services & Supports Bureau, LaDon Woodson, Program Manager.

DISCUSSION ITEM	OUTCOME	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON/ DEPARTMENT	EXPECTED OR REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE
I. Invocation/Introductions	Leonard Montoya, Ohkay Owingeh, gave the invocation. All HCA/MAD staff, MCO reps, guest speakers, ISD, and NATAC reps introduced themselves.	None	All	N/A
II. Review of June 16, 2025 minutes	No changes were requested to June 16, 2025 minutes. Minutes finalized.	Completed	All	N/A
III. HR 1 Federal Landscape Dana Flannery, MAD Director	In July 2025 congress passed HR- the federal budget bill. The president signed it July 4, 2025. Potential cuts to coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• October 2026 changes for eligibility for non-citizens,</li><li>• Changes in eligibility redeterminations for individuals in 12/2026</li><li>• Six-month renewals</li><li>• Retroactive coverage will change to 30 days or 60 days, but not 90 days retroactive as it is currently</li><li>• Community Engagement/Work Requirements exemptions will be used very 12/31/2026</li><li>• Policy work in Medicaid starts now</li><li>• January 1, 2025, quarterly review of death master files</li><li>• October 1, 2028, Member cost sharing/copays</li></ul>	Ongoing	Dana Flannery	Next NATAC

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	<p>Impacts – projections that up to 89,000 could lose coverage. About 10,000 non-citizens.</p> <p>89,000 Expansion adults could be disenrolled due to work requirements \$8.5 billion in Federal funding impact 2028-2037.</p> <p>Hospitals are at risk of closure due to the decrease in revenue.</p> <p>About 60,000 SNAP beneficiaries will be subject to the work requirements.</p> <p>We have a Special Session October 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>One pager was provided with data as of today. However, that data could change.</p> <p>A notice of funding opportunity came out today for states to respond to.</p> <p><a href="#">Medicaid Impacts 1-pager</a></p> <p><a href="#">CMS web page</a></p> <p>There are carve outs for Native Americans at this point from the federal level. For example, no 6-month renewal requirements, Expansion NA adults will not be removed from Medicaid, no cost sharing, no work requirement.</p>			
IV. Turquoise Claims update - Lorrina Rivera, Systems Bureau MAD	<p>Turquoise Claims – a new Medicaid claims system that was to be launched in December, but we are now hoping to launch it Spring of 2026.</p> <p>We are replacing the antiquated NM web provider portal system called Omnicaid. In 2013 CMS wanted us to update our system and add new features a one stop shop for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custom templates for routine services</li> <li>• A user-friendly portal that will allow you to access learning tools and provider enrollment and the claims system</li> <li>• Real time claim status to access latest information</li> </ul> <p>If you were using clearinghouses you will continue to do so. You will have a new mailing address for paper claims.</p> <p>Turquoise claims will provide training either self-paced or instructor-led virtual training.</p> <p>We will also be having a roadshow once the Turquoise Claims system is launched throughout the state.</p> <p>There will be no delay in processing claims or interrupt the claims payment schedule throughout the transition to Turquoise Claims.</p> <p>There will be a single sign on for yes.nm.gov</p> <p>See the Turquoise Claims landing page at <a href="https://www.hca.nm.gov/turquoise-claims/">https://www.hca.nm.gov/turquoise-claims/</a></p>	Completed	Lorrina Rivera	Completed
V. Senate Bill 3 – Kristie Brooks, HCA, Director of	Senate Bill 3 was signed by the Governor February 27, 2025. This bill has a pretty aggressive timeline to get things done.	If you have questions or	Kristie Brooks	Next NATAC

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BH Transformation & Innovations	<p>We are tasked to make this bill work for all of NM, including the Tribes. In June 2025 the BH Executive Committee held its first meeting. The committee developed behavioral health service standards and evaluation guidelines. September 30<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.</p> <p>The Committee is responsible for looking at Regional plans, deciding the regions, (Regions were adopted June 24<sup>th</sup> mirroring the Judicial Districts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the Regions</li> <li>• Regionalized services</li> <li>• Addressing the priorities and funding gaps</li> <li>• Fast track for funding</li> <li>• Identifying the needs in each Region</li> </ul> <p>The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) released a funding opportunity of \$45,000 for each Region to set up their regional program; applications are due 9/30/2025. We want to get this money out the door to communities that need it.</p> <p>We are required to do sequential mapping.</p> <p>If you would like Kristie to come to your community, please reach out to her. She is happy to come out or to do a zoom meeting.</p> <p>We have to develop a rubric for the evaluation of Regional plans.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> How are you going to determine the needs of counties when there are also multiple Tribes in that county? \$45,000 doesn't go very far. We are going to keep asking questions. We would really benefit from a social detox program.</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Please attend these meetings in person, by zoom or submit your comments to the AOC.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The \$45,000 was not meant to go to providers but to a county manager to coordinate within their jurisdictions. Who is going to be monitoring this and making sure the law is followed? The committee needs to be looking at the law and make sure they are following up with it.</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> The AOC will report on that at the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. We have had lots of conversations with IAD as well. We are in constant conversations about how this is going to work with our Tribes and counties. The \$45,000 is to start bringing your regions together to start planning. We understand the needs of each Tribe are going to be different for the non-Native population in these regions. The \$45,000 is just to get people to the table, not for the funding of RHT.</p>	<p>concerns you can reach out to Kristie Brooks at <a href="mailto:kristie.brooks@hca.nm.gov">kristie.brooks@hca.nm.gov</a></p>		

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	Chastity Sandoval - The new BH Native American liaison. She introduced herself and shared about herself.			
VI. Food is Medicine – Kristen Borderswood, LTSS Bureau, MAD	<p>The Community Benefit program is under the Long Terms Services &amp; Supports Bureau. It is for people to get services in their communities and not go into a nursing home to get these benefits.</p> <p>They need to meet a Level of Care (LOC) and be financially eligible for the program. We have added a Food is Medicine benefit to the Community Benefits program. It provides medically tailored meals to members up to 2 per day to stay on track with a healthy diet. Anyone in Community Benefits can get assessed for this. They must have a need to receive specially prepared meals and not currently getting their meals provided. Members who are facing challenges to have access to healthy foods or don't have transportation to get healthy food, may be eligible. Meals are designed by a Registered Dietician Nutritionist (RDN). Meals are delivered on a regularly scheduled basis. If someone is interested, have them enroll in an MCO and speak with their MCO care coordinator about the Community Benefit.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> How will the individuals eligible for this benefit receive their food?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> When they meet with their MCO care coordinator, they will work that out for the convenience of the CB member.</p>	Completed	Kristin Borderswood	Completed
VII. Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) - LaDon Woodson, Innovation Program Manager, MAD	<p>Recently CMS changed the rules on Medicaid Advisory Committees (MAC). CMS developed the BAC – Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) with representation from Medicaid beneficiaries and their direct caregivers to give a safe space to discuss Medicaid issues they have. The first meeting was July 23, 2025, and 13 members attended. We discussed the purpose of the MAC and BAC. It was good to hear from those that have experienced the Medicaid program. These meetings are closed but we need broad-based representation. The BAC has term limits.</p> <p>The next MAC is November 4, 2025, at 1:00 – 4:00 pm both virtual and in person platforms.</p>	Completed	LaDon Woodson	Future NATAC
VIII. Justice Involved – Re-entry Waiver - Jeanelle Romero, Communication & Education Bureau, MAD	<p>This Waiver was approved July 2024 which allows us to provide Medicaid services prior to release from jail or incarceration. It allows our providers to bill 90 prior to release. The waiver provides a minimum of 3 services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care management</li> <li>• MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) services</li> <li>• 30 days supply of meds in hand upon release</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Jeanelle Romero <a href="mailto:JeanelleC.Romero@hca.nm.gov">JeanelleC.Romero@hca.nm.gov</a>	Future NATAC

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	<p>We have 3 service levels, and the correctional facility can determine what level they can reach.</p> <p>Service level 2 allows for the same as Service level one plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hep C diagnostic and treatment services</li> <li>• Peer Supports</li> <li>• Community Health Worker (CHW) services</li> </ul> <p>Service level 3 allows all the services in levels 1 and 2 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnostic services (lab &amp; radiology)</li> <li>• Prescribed drugs</li> <li>• Medical equipment and supplies</li> <li>• Physical and behavioral health Clinical consultation</li> <li>• Family planning services</li> </ul> <p>A pilot project was launched July 1, 2025, in 3 areas of NM - the Western NM Correctional Facility, the Central NM Correctional facility, and Springer NM Correctional Facility.</p> <p>*We need case management services for our Native American members who are not enrolled in managed care.</p> <p>Please reach out to Jeanelle Romero if you would like to talk more about that with her.</p>			
IX. Turquoise Care 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. They also discussed some of their popular Value-Added Services (VAS) as well as Native American Advisory Board (NAAB) meetings.	Ongoing	Turquoise Care MCOs	Next NATAC
XI. Comments/questions/ updates	Billing for CCSS and CPSWs can be billed at the OMB rate. check			Next NATAC
XII. Closing, next meeting	Next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2025		Theresa Belanger	

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Belanger

December 10, 2025