



Rhode Island Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

Onboarding Session

August 22, 2025

1-2:30 p.m.

“ Housekeeping Details

- We will be recording this meeting for the purpose of generating meeting minutes. The minutes will be edited to remove the names of members who do not want to their names included in publicly shared meeting minutes or documents.
- Please sign in by typing your first and last name into the Teams chat. This will allow us to track participation.
- The agenda, slide deck, and meeting minutes will be made available on the EOHHS website at a future date.
- If you have any questions or need any assistance, please email damaris.r.teixeira@ohhs.ri.gov.

”



Welcome and Introductions

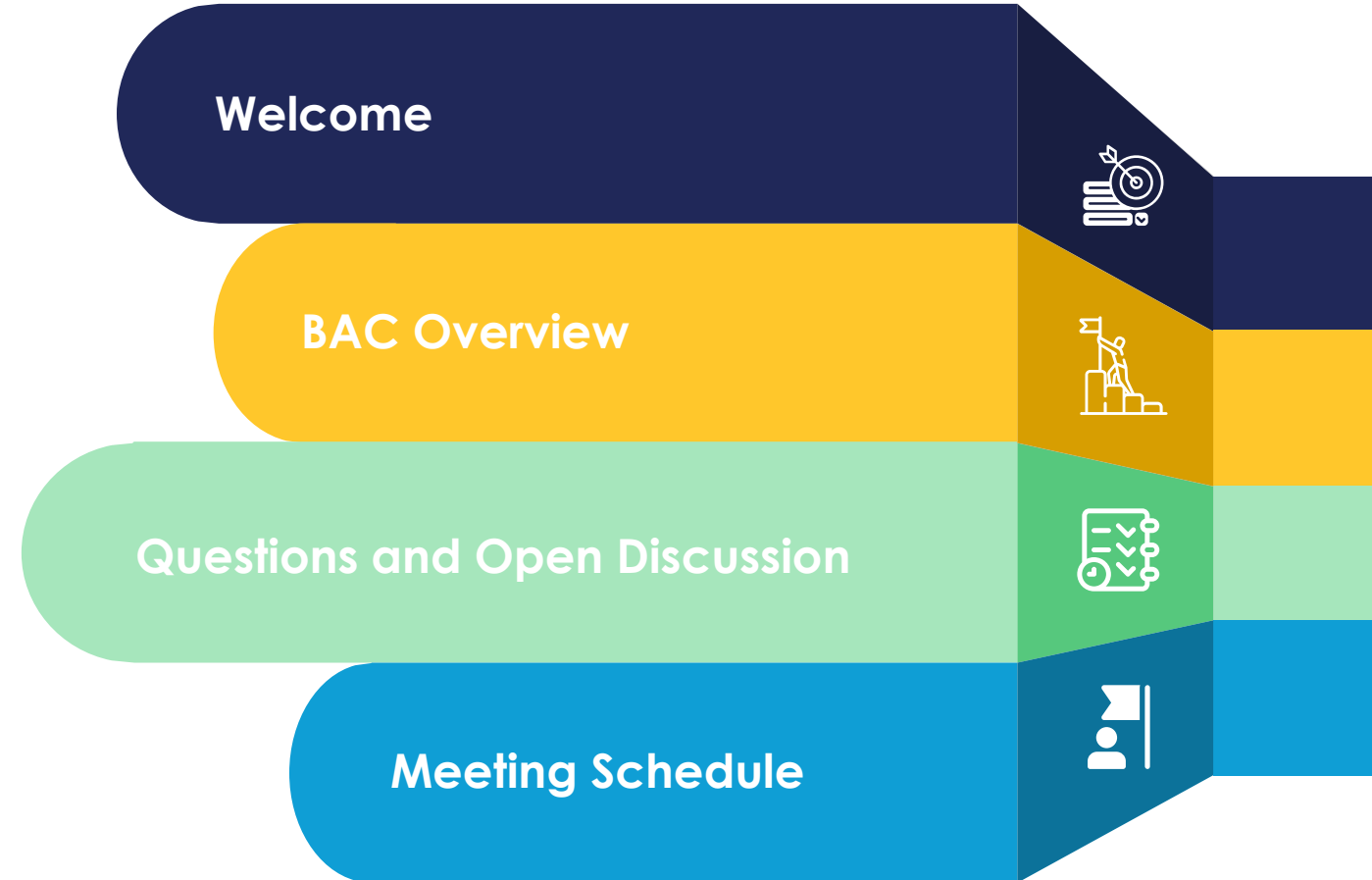


Today's Agenda

Follow [this link](#) for meeting agenda.



- ✓ **Welcome and Introductions**
 - Lissa DiMauro, Associate Director, Medicaid Program Operations
 - Jerry Fingerut, MD, Medical Director
 - Remarks John Bonin, Medicaid Program Deputy Director
 - BAC icebreaker activity
- ✓ **BAC Overview**
 - CMS Access Rule
 - Purpose and Role of the BAC
 - Structure and Operations
 - Expectations and Responsibilities
- ✓ **Questions and Open Discussion**
 - Members can ask questions about the BAC
 - Shared goals for the BAC
- ✓ **Meeting Schedule**
 - Schedule for future BAC meetings



Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) Overview

CMS Access Rule 2024

A key provision in the 2024 Access Final Rule published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires states to operate a Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) and a Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC).

In Rhode Island, the MAC and the BAC are replacing the current Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) and the Medicaid Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC).

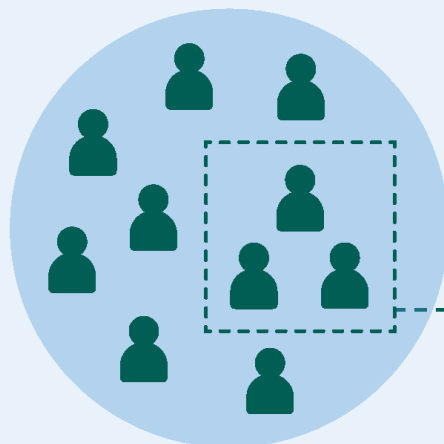
Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

The BAC is a dedicated forum for **people with lived experience** of the Medicaid program. BAC members must include individuals who are:

Enrolled in Medicaid currently or in the past

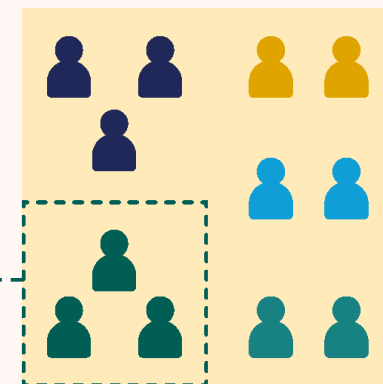
A family member of someone enrolled in Medicaid

A paid or unpaid caregiver of someone enrolled in Medicaid



Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)

The MAC is a **diverse group of Medicaid stakeholders** with a wide range of perspectives and experiences. The MAC includes BAC members and at least one representative from each of these categories:



Clinicians / administrators

Managed care organizations (MCO)

Other state agencies as ex officio members

State, local, or community-based organizations

By July 10, 2027, 25% of MAC members must be from the BAC

The Role of the BAC



The BAC can advise Rhode Island Medicaid on issues about and opportunities for the program.

BAC members can work with Medicaid staff in an advisory role to discuss a wide range of topics, as well as provide input about other ways Medicaid can improve the health of members. The BAC can advise on, among other things, the following:

- Additions and changes to services.
- Coordination of care.
- Access to services.
- Eligibility, enrollment, and renewal processes.
- Cultural awareness, language access, and health equity in the Medicaid program.

Follow [this link](#) for the Rhode Island Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) Guide.

BAC Leadership and Representation at MAC



- BAC members can select one chairperson and two vice chairpersons through a majority vote.
- In addition, members of the BAC will represent the council at Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings as follows:

From the period of July 9, 2025-July 9, 2026, 10% of the MAC membership will be BAC members.

10%

From the period of July 10, 2026-July 10, 2027, 20% of the MAC membership will be BAC members.

20%

And thereafter 25% of MAC members must come from the BAC.

25%

BAC Structure and Operations



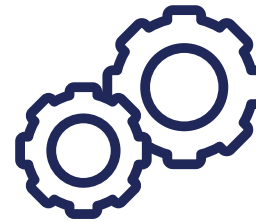
Meetings

The BAC meets four times a year. Meetings are not required to be open to the public, unless directed by the BAC.



Attendance

Attendance is a requirement of BAC membership, unless excused, and is key for the council to conduct business.



Member Selection

Members are selected by the Medicaid Program Director and serve a two-year term.



Stipends

BAC members will get a \$75 stipend per meeting. These are considered taxable income need to be reported when filing taxes.

Agreed Member Conduct and Norms



- ✔ **Uphold confidentiality.** Always respect the privacy and confidentiality of information shared. What is said here, stays here.
- ✔ **Step up and step back.** Be respectful of other BAC members, RI Medicaid staff, and other presenters.
- ✔ **Disagree without being disagreeable.** Listen to the perspectives of others and try to understand them by using active listening skills.
- ✔ **Listen to understand.** Listen to the perspectives of others and try to understand them by using active listening skills.
- ✔ **Be present.** Do your best to attend BAC meetings and be active. If you can't attend, let the BAC Administrator know ahead of time.
- ✔ **Stay focused and follow-up.** Approach challenges with a solution-focused energy and have timely follow-up when feedback is given.
- ✔ **Conflict of interest disclosure.** Disclose any actual potential conflicts of interest and recuse yourself from votes or discussions where a conflict of interest exists.



Questions and Open Discussion

Future Meeting Schedule

Agendas and information for future BAC meetings will be shared with you.

- Monday, September 22, 2025, 1-2:30 p.m. via Teams
- Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 1-2:30 p.m. via Teams
- Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 1-2:30 p.m. via Teams
- Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 1-2:30 p.m. via Teams



“

***Teamwork is the ability to work together
toward a common vision ...***

***It is the fuel that allows common people to
attain uncommon results.***

- Andrew Carnegie

”

