



Rhode Island Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)

Onboarding Session

**September 3, 2025
4-5:30 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.

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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 Kristin Pono Sousa, Medicaid Program Director
 - MAC icebreaker activity

- ✓ **MAC Overview**
 - CMS Access Rule
 - Purpose and Role of the MAC
 - Structure and Operations
 - Expectations and Responsibilities

- ✓ **Questions and Open Discussion**
 - Members can ask questions about the MAC
 - Shared goals for the MAC

- ✓ **Meeting Schedule**
 - Schedule for future MAC meetings

Welcome

BAC Overview

Questions and Open Discussion

Meeting Schedule



Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) 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 Advisory Committee (MAC) and a Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC).

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).

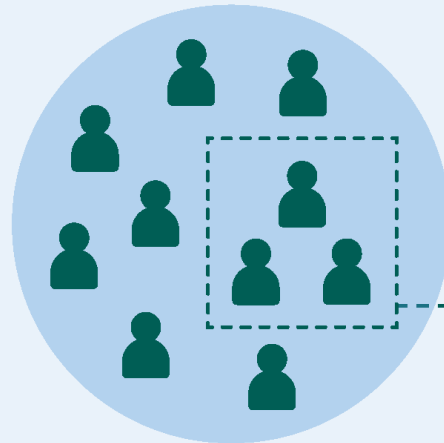
Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

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

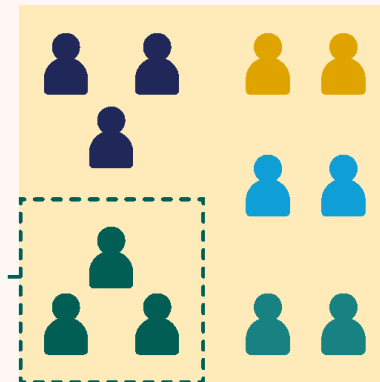
A family member of someone enrolled in Medicaid

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 MAC



The MAC provides guidance, in an advisory role, to the Medicaid program, as well as the Medicaid Program Director, on high priority issues, challenges, policies, and operational decisions regarding program administration and the experiences of Medicaid members in Rhode Island. This can include the following:

- Additions and changes to services.
- Coordination of care.
- Quality of services.
- Access to services.
- Eligibility, enrollment, and renewal processes.
- Member and provider communications by the Medicaid program and its contracted vendors such as Medicaid managed care organizations.
- Other issues that impact health outcomes and delivery of medical care services in the Medicaid program.

Follow [this link](#) for the Rhode Island Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) Guide.



Strong Interest and Engagement

We received 82 applications for the MAC, reflecting strong stakeholder interest and engagement across the State.



Objective Selection and Scoring

Applications were reviewed using a standardized scoring rubric to ensure consistency and objectivity across all reviews.



Commitment to Diverse Representation

The selection committee prioritized applicant experiences to attain broad stakeholder representation. The final composition of the MAC reflects diversity across Medicaid representing advocates, clinicians and administrators, community partners, and state, local or community-based organizations.



MAC Leadership and BAC Representation



- MAC members can select one chairperson and a vice chair through a majority vote.
- In addition, members of the Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) will represent the council at 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%

MAC Structure and Operations



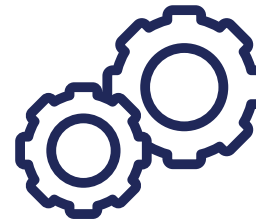
Meetings

The MAC meets four times a year. At least two meetings are open to the public.



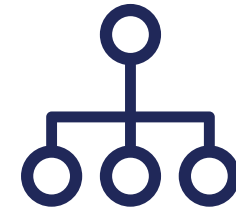
Attendance

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



Member Selection

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



BAC Representation

MAC meetings must include representatives from the BAC.

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 MAC 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 MAC meetings and be active. If you can't attend, let the MAC 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.

Future Meeting Schedule

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

- Monday, September 29, 2025, 4-5 p.m. via Teams
- Friday, December 19, 2025, 12-1 p.m. via Teams
- Friday, March 27, 2026, 12-1 p.m. via Teams
- Monday, June 22, 2026, 4-5 p.m. via Teams

Members are encouraged to suggest topics or discussion areas they'd like to cover at MAC meetings in advance. This will help us ensure these items are considered for inclusion in the meeting agendas.

* Two MAC meetings are open to the public.





Questions and Open Discussion

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***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

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