

**Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)
Onboarding Session
Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 4:00-5:30 p.m. via Teams
Meeting Minutes**

Medicaid staff in attendance:

- Kristin Pono Sousa, Medicaid Program Director
- Lissa DiMauro, Associate Director, Medicaid Program Operations
- Jerry Fingerut, MD, Medical Director
- Damaris Teixeira, Health Program Administrator, BAC and MAC Administrator

<p>MAC members in Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abby Antwi • Gary Bubly • Margaret Holland-McDuff • Samantha Machado • T.J. Martineau • Kie O'Donnell • Christopher Ottiano • Cristina Pacheco • Tara Pratt • Jen Raney • Heather Smith • Rashida Taher • Frannie West 	<p>Ex-Officio State Agency Representatives in Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristine Campagna, RI Department of Health (RIDOH) • Deborah Garneau, RI Department of Health (RIDOH) • Dawn Gonsalves, Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) • Jason Lyon, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) • Kathie Mazza, HealthSource RI (HSRI) • Heather Mincey, Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) • Derek Tevyaw, Health Source RI (HSRI)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marisa Vieira, Department of Human Services (DHS)
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Welcome and Introductions	<p>Lissa DiMauro, Associate Director, Medicaid Program Operations Kristin Pono Sousa, Medicaid Program Director Jerry Fingerut, MD, Medical Director Damaris Teixeira, Health Program Administrator, BAC and MAC Administrator</p>
Housekeeping Details	<p>Lissa DiMauro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings will be recorded to facilitate note taking for meeting minutes. • MAC members will need to sign-in at the start of every meeting. • Names of MAC members will be removed. • Confidentiality rules observed: what is said here, stays here. • Going forward materials will be made available to members before meetings when possible, and if not after the meetings. • Any questions should be sent to Damaris Teixeira at damaris.r.teixeira@ohhs.ri.gov.
MAC Member Introductions State Agency Ex-Officio Member Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAC Members introduced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abby Antwi • Gary Bubly • Margaret Holland-McDuff • Samantha Machado • T.J. Martineau • Kie O'Donnell • Christopher Ottiano • Cristina Pacheco

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tara Pratt • Jen Raney • Heather Smith • Rashida Taher • Frannie West <p>Ex-Officio State Agency Members introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah Garneau, RIDOH • Kristine Campagna, RIDOH • Jason Lyon, DCYF • Kathie Mazza, HSRI • Derek Tevyaw, HSRI • Heather Mincey, BHDDH • Dawn Gonsalves, BHDDH • Marisa Vieira, DHS
<p>MAC and Medicaid Overview</p>	<p>We received many applications for this committee, 82 applications, and they were all very good. It was difficult to make a choice.</p> <p>Access Rule Information</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>

As mandated by the Access Final Rule BAC members will need to represent the council at Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings.

[Rhode Island Medicaid Advisory Committee \(MAC\) Guide.](#)

Purpose and Role of the MAC

The MAC is a group of up to 25 people who represent advocates, clinicians and administrators, community partners, and state, local or community-based organizations. The MAC must also include representatives from the Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC).

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.

Structure, Operations, Expectations, and Responsibilities

Meetings

The MAC meets four times a year. Two out of the four meetings must be 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.

	<p>BAC Representation at MAC Meetings Members of the Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) will represent the council at MAC meetings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From the period of July 9, 2025-July 9, 2026, 10% of the MAC membership will be BAC members. ○ From the period of July 10, 2026-July 10, 2027, 20% of the MAC membership will be BAC members. ○ And thereafter 25% of MAC members must come from the BAC. <p>The BAC is a group of 10-15 people who are enrolled in Medicaid currently or in the past, a family member of someone enrolled in Medicaid, or a paid or unpaid caregiver of someone enrolled in Medicaid.</p> <p>MAC Member Conduct and Norms Information from the Rhode Island Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) Guide shared.</p> <p>Medicaid Overview Information from the Rhode Island Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) Guide shared.</p>
<p>Questions and Discussion</p>	<p>Lissa informed MAC members that they will be asked to submit their suggestions for the top topics of interest the MAC might be able to focus on at future meetings. Some members shared some topics during the session.</p> <p>Question To mitigate the inevitable eligibility changes Medicaid will face due to HR 1, we should look at ways to expand public and private partnerships to help improve reenrollments.</p> <p>Response This the type of conversation and creativity we would hope this group could have. It’s important to find creative solutions to not only help our Medicaid beneficiaries, but also the greater good.</p>

	<p>Question What is the state general revenue (GR) currently being used for, and could funds be potentially shifted for Medicaid needs?</p> <p>Response This was a suggestion, member not looking for an immediate response.</p> <p>Question Is there an opportunity to leverage technology or AI [in Medicaid] programs to figure out ways to save and help facilitate enrollments?</p> <p>Response We can't have a meaningful conversation without seeing what AI components would be in the future, especially from an administrative point of view, but also knowing that there was to be a human component to it too. Thanks for this suggestion.</p> <p>Discussion: MAC members decided to hold the next four meetings virtually through Teams. Two meetings will be closed to the public and two meetings will be open to the public. Details to be announced at a later date.</p>
Resources	<p>Rhode Island Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) Guide RI MAC Guide_8.22.25.pdf Conflict of Interest Policy and Form Conflict of interest form BAC MAC 8.22.25.pdf</p>
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit top 3 topics or areas of interest you would like the MAC to focus on as a group during upcoming meetings. Send a separate email to damaris.r.teixeira@ohhs.ri.gov with your suggestions by Tuesday, September 16. The top topics or areas of interest identified by the group will be shared at the next meeting. • Think about creative and innovative solutions for how to mitigate the changes Medicaid will need to implement in the future. • Submit nominations for MAC chair and vice-chair roles. Deadline, Friday, October 3, 2025.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: On Tuesday, September 9, 2025, from 10-11:30 a.m. the Federal Compliance Advisory Group will be meeting at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Conference Room 2A in Providence, or virtually on Microsoft Teams. This is a group chaired by EOHHS Secretary Richard Charest and led by Medicaid Director Kristin Sousa and Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Kimerly Brito. The focus of this meeting will be on Medicaid.
Next Steps: Meeting Dates	<p>Meeting Schedule: Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) 2025-2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, September 29, 2025, 4-5 p.m. via Teams (this meeting was postponed, new date to be determined) • 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