

**Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)
Quarter 1 Meeting
Monday, September 22, 2025, 1:00-2:30 p.m. via Teams
Meeting Minutes**

Medicaid staff in attendance:

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

BAC members in attendance*:

- Miosotis Alsina
- Cristina Amedeo
- Naiommy Baret
- Jenine Bressner
- Sabrina Calvert
- Suenelly Cortes
- Alexandr Grey
- Alexander Kaplan
- Luisa Murillo
- Kelley Ryan
- Ascendence Watson

* Some members in attendance asked to keep their names private.

Welcome and Introductions	Lissa DiMauro, Associate Director, Medicaid Program Operations Jerry Fingerut, MD, Medical Director Damaris Teixeira, Health Program Administrator, BAC and MAC Administrator

<p>Housekeeping Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings will be recorded to facilitate note taking for meeting minutes. Participant names will be excluded from published meeting minutes. • BAC members will need to sign-in at the start of every meeting via Teams chat. • 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.
<p>BAC Leadership (Chair, Vice-Chair, and MAC Representatives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about leadership roles (chair, vice-chair, and BAC representatives to the Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)). • Concerns raised about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transparency in the nomination/selection process. ○ Differences between bylaw expectations and director-driven selections. ○ Ensuring member voices are respected in decision-making. • Agreement that members should be allowed to vote on open leadership positions. • Vote taken by members during meeting to select two members (previously self-nominated) to serve as BAC representatives to the MAC. Results of vote: Cristina Amedeo and Naiommy Baret. <p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information with descriptions of leadership roles and responsibilities. • Share member feedback with Director Sousa regarding transparency in the nomination/selection process, and need for member voices to be respected in decision-making. • Members to decide if council would like the same two members to serve in the roles of chair and vice-chair of the council, or if two different members should fill those two roles instead. Online vote.

<p>Purpose and Scope of the BAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis that BAC is advisory in nature. • Primary role: elevate member experiences and provide recommendations to state leadership based on those experiences. As well as represent the multiple interests of the group, focusing on topics selected by the group. • Committee will not solve systemic issues directly but will provide prioritized guidance in an advisory capacity to Medicaid leadership. • Importance of balancing short-term actionable goals with long-term systemic priorities.
<p>Top Topics Suggested by BAC Members, Summary and Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of all suggestions submitted by BAC members was presented and discussed. • Then a summary of the top three (3) common themes was presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve communication with members ○ Simplify eligibility and access ○ Promote preventive care and service utilization <p>Concerns and Important Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some members expressed concerns about the BAC’s ability to achieve results in any of the areas identified. • Emphasis was placed on the importance of members, with the support of Medicaid leadership, selecting top topics and focusing work on those areas to advise leadership of possible solutions or recommendations for improvements. There was acknowledgement about time constraints for the council (number of meetings a year) and understanding that not all items will be fully resolved. <p>Next Steps for Topic Prioritization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed to consolidate all submitted topics into a shared document. • Suggested format: table with an added column for new recommendations. • Members to add recommendations before the next meeting. • Committee will identify top three focus areas for the year. • Consider developing an advisory document with final topics and suggestions.

	<p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate shared document summarizing top topics and categories. • Add “Recommendations” column for member input. • Members to provide written contributions before December meeting. • BAC Administrator will send out a communication with next steps.
<p>Summary of Action Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate leadership role descriptions and voting form. • Share consolidated document of top topics suggested with added recommendations column. • Members to provide input on issues before December meeting. • Reminder: For those members interested in receiving the \$75 stipend for each meeting attended, please be sure to complete the Form W-9 process already described as soon as possible.
<p>Meeting Dates</p>	<p>Meeting Schedule: Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) 2025-2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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