

MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, October 26, 2023
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: GoToWebinar

MMAC meetings will continue to be held through GoToWebinar only.

Please register for MMAC Meeting on October 26, 2023, 1:00 p.m. EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1243250110515780112>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Those who would like to make public comment should email Ms. Meredith Lawler at, meredith.lawler@maryland.gov or use the question feature to submit questions to the host.

.....

AGENDA

- I. Departmental Report
- II. Statewide Expansion of the Collaborative Care Model
- III. Prescriber Enrollment Update
- IV. Doula Enrollment: Upcoming Request for Nominations
- V. Waiver, State Plan and Regulations Changes
- VI. Open Enrollment
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Staff Contact: Ms. Meredith Lawler
meredith.lawler@maryland.gov

**MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 28, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Shannon Hall
Ms. Erin Dorrien
Ms. Nicole McCann
The Hon. Heather Bagnall
The Hon. Tiffany Alston
Ms. Stephanie Scharpf
Adeteju Ogunrinde, M.D.
Ms. Diane McComb
Rachel Dodge, M.D.
Mr. Ben Steffen
Mr. William Webb
Ms. Vickie Walters

MEMBERS ABSENT:

The Hon. Matthew Morgan
Theodora Balis, M.D.
The Hon. J.B. Jennings
The Hon. Antonio Hayes
Ms. Nora Hoban
Mr. Paul Miller
Kathryn Fiddler, DNP
Winifred Booker, D.D.S
Mr. Floyd Hartley
Ms. Marie McLendon
Ms. Jessica Dickerson
Mr. Kenneth Garove

Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee

September 28, 2023

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nicki McCann, Chair, called to order the meeting of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee (MMAC) at 1:05 p.m. Committee members approved the minutes from the July 27, 2023, meeting as written.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Ryan Moran, Deputy Secretary, Health Care Financing, Medicaid Director, provided opening remarks starting by introducing himself and welcoming new members.

One of the most significant issues that has occurred over the past months was that Maryland, along with twenty-nine other states and our federal partners at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), identified an opportunity for improvement of our automatic enrollment process. Our automatic enrollment process is one of the highest, above fifty percent, where we use other data sources to check eligibility for enrollment. We are doing that review at the household level rather than the individual level.

The concern here was that some of the eligibility requirements that are in place, particularly for children, was that conducting a renewal at the household level with an automatic process may potentially be inappropriately sending individuals through the enrollment process. No one at that point in the process, based on the household review, got terminated from Medicaid but they did need paperwork. The concern was there would be inappropriate procedural terminations based on our process from the state perspective. After identification of this issue, Maryland, along with other states, looked at our automatic enrollment process.

The Department took immediate action once this was identified by CMS and the following action steps were established:

1. Upon receiving notification of this, the Department paused all procedural terminations for the month of August.
2. As instructed by CMS, the Department went back and did a review with our partners at the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange of potential children that were impacted. The Department has already reinstated coverage for just over five thousand children for the period of May through July 2023.
3. The Department authorized and is working with CMS on expediting system changes to ensure that these renewals are conducted appropriately. This week we are in the process of finalizing testing related to this work.

The goal of this administration is to ensure that any single person who is eligible for Medicaid that their coverage remains, and the Department has taken aggressive action to ensure that goal is achieved.

Enrollment Update

Ms. Nancy Brown, Division Chief, Office of Innovation, Research and Development, reviewed the current Medicaid enrollment numbers.

We are currently at 1,742,834 enrolled in the Medicaid program which is down from a record high of approximately 1.8 million at the end of May 2023 when we started disenrollments. This is a 23.1 percent increase since the maintenance of effort was implemented in February (see attached graph).

Departmental Report

Ms. Tricia Roddy, Deputy Medicaid Director, provided the Committee with a Departmental update.

There is a potential for a federal government shutdown and if it does occur, it will happen next week. For the Medicaid program, it should be seamless. There is an appropriation for the Medicaid program that goes through December 2023 and for MCHP to 2029. We should have sufficient funds to operate the program.

Where you may see some potential issues will be around delays in state plan amendments (SPAs) and our 1115 waiver amendment request. The impact will depend on how long the shutdown lasts and how long CMS gets caught up with a backlog of submission requests. The Department is very conscious of what this might mean and will be monitoring our outstanding SPAs and what that might mean to our programs and services.

The Department has expanded eligibility to pregnant undocumented women. This was a result of legislation – the Healthy Babies Equity Act – sponsored by Chair Pena Melnyk. The Department implemented that program on July 1, 2023. We provide pre-natal and post-partum care to pregnant non-citizens. The program has been a success in terms of outreach and enrollment efforts with four thousand women already enrolled. The program is on track to exceed the Department’s estimates.

Deputy Secretary Moran added that a couple of weeks ago the success of the program launch was highlighted on NPR in Washington, DC. They discussed the real-world impact that this program has made on people’s lives. You can read the article at this link:

<https://dcist.com/story/23/09/18/md-immigrant-pregnant-maryland-insurance>

Dr. Moran praised the Medicaid team for the successful implementation of this program amid redeterminations and continued work on new benefits and new expansions.

1115 Waiver Update

Ms. Laura Goodman, Acting Director, Office of Innovation, Research and Development, informed the Committee that the Department is in the midst of our public comment period for an amendment to our 1115 waiver, also known as the HealthChoice Demonstration. This is the second of two public hearings. Per CMS requirements, the public comment period for the proposed waiver amendment will be open until October 2, 2023 (see attached presentation).

Waiver, State Plan and Regulation Changes

Ms. Nina McHugh, Medicaid Provider Services, gave the Committee a status update on waivers, regulations, and state plan amendment changes (see attached handouts).

Public Comments

Ms. Viki Gayhardt gave public comments on health and housing issues regarding a family member.

Adjournment

Ms. McCann adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.