

Meeting Summary

NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Location: Zoom

Attendees

BAC Members Present: Dina Ginsberger, Elray Hobbs, Rosalynn McEvelly, Anthony Pantaleo, Sachin Pathare, Bee Ray, Shirley Santillán, MrDexter Stevenson, DA, LG, AL, AN, AW

BAC Member Excused: SS

BAC Member Not Present: JD

State Participants: NJ Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services (DMAHS) staff including Greg Woods, Kristine Byrnes, Robert Durborow, Karen Enoch, Lynda Grajeda, Dr. Thomas Lind, Natalie Kotkin, Gina Artman, Lauren Koenig, Sam Krauss, Phyllis Melendez, Hope Morante, Paige Solariski

Meeting Overview

This meeting of the NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) focused on two primary topics: (1) federal Community Engagement (work requirement) provisions affecting Medicaid under H.R. 1 (OBBBA), and (2) Medicaid provider networks and managed care operations in New Jersey. The meeting also included routine Council business and planning for future meetings.

Key Meeting Topics

1. Call to Order and Council Business

State staff welcomed members, conducted roll call, reviewed the meeting agenda, demonstrated the BAC website, and facilitated BAC member approval of the September 29, 2025 meeting notes.

2. Community Engagement (Work Requirement) Provisions – Federal Update – led by *Greg Woods*

State staff presented an overview of Medicaid provisions included in H.R. 1 (OBBBA), with a focus on mandatory Community Engagement (CE) requirements, which include participation in work, school or volunteer activities. State staff explained which Medicaid members would be subject to these requirements and which groups would be exempt.

As of August 2025, NJ FamilyCare enrollment totaled approximately 1.85 million members. Approximately 550,000 members, primarily Affordable Care Act (ACA) expansion adults, may be subject to CE requirements, while about 1.3 million members are expected to be exempt.

DMAHS staff outlined guiding principles for New Jersey's implementation, including minimizing administrative burden, maximizing automatic eligibility verification, maintaining continuity of care, and prioritizing member experience.

- Members asked questions about various population groups and how CE requirements impact them, e.g., expecting parents, college students, gig workers and WorkAbility members.
- Members suggested the state devise an online tool or visual for NJ FamilyCare members to determine if CE requirements apply to them.
- BAC members suggested public-facing CE forms be available online and in print formats.
- Members suggested the state institute chat agents to assist members, in addition to the Health Benefits Coordinator (HBC) call center.
- The state will follow-up on a question related to the status of NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid 12-month postpartum continuous eligibility under H.R. 1 provisions.

3. Provider Networks and Managed Care – led by *Hope Morante*

Staff provided an overview of Medicaid provider networks, including provider enrollment and managed care credentialing processes, and explained how providers are paid under fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care arrangements.

Network adequacy standards, monitoring activities, and enforcement mechanisms were reviewed, including geographic access requirements, appointment availability standards, and oversight tools used by DMAHS.

- State staff answered BAC members' questions about:
 - Fee-for-service vs. managed care
 - Managed care network requirements for specialists
 - Emergency Department use in managed care/out-of-network care

4. Planning, Follow-Up, and Next Steps

Members were informed that a post-meeting survey would be distributed regarding future meeting dates and topics. Members interested in self-nomination to the Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC) were instructed to notify staff by December 26, 2025. Medicaid staff remained available after adjournment for individual questions.

5. Wrap-Up and Upcoming Meetings

BAC meetings will continue on a quarterly basis, with the next in-person meeting planned for March 2026. Approved meeting summaries will be posted to the DMAHS website.

Adjournment: Approximately 12:00 Noon

Next Meeting: March 17, 2026. This meeting will be held in-person and via Zoom.