



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon **Location:** Virtual [Zoom](#) Meeting

Council Members: Dr. Deborah Spitalnik, Chair | Dr. Rina Ramirez-Alexander | Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes
Chrissy Buteas | Mary Coogan | Theresa Edelstein | Sam George | Cheryl Golden | Jamila McLean | Victor Murray
Dr. Becky Ofrane | Hitesh Patel | Sarah Sternbach | Wayne Vivian | Laura Wadell

Ex-Officio Members: NJ Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Jeff Carrick, NJ Dept. of Children & Families | Jonathan Seifried, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Presenters from the NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services:

Gregory Woods, Assistant Commissioner	Dr. Tom Lind, Medical Director
Kristine Byrnes, Assistant Division Director	Natalie Kotkin, Senior Advisor
Lynda Grajeda, Chief, Managed Care Operations	Shanique McGowan, Behavioral Health Policy Specialist
Shin-Yi Lin, Deputy Director of Policy	Jonathan Tew, Policy Director

Agenda Topic	Speaker
Welcome and Call to Order	Dr. Deborah Spitalnik
Comments from DHS Commissioner Sarah Adelman	Commissioner Adelman
H.R. 1 Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rural Health Transformation ProgramEligibility ProvisionsProvider Taxes	Shin-Yi Lin Gregory Woods and Natalie Kotkin Gregory Woods
Immigrant Eligibility Topics	Gregory Woods
Other Eligibility and Enrollment Updates	Kristine Byrnes
Beneficial Advisory Council (BAC) Updates	Gregory Woods
1115 Comprehensive Demonstration: Upcoming Renewal	Jonathan Tew
Behavioral Health Integration Update	Shanique McGowan
NJ FamilyCare Doula Benefits Updates	Shin-Yi Lin
Cell and Gene Therapy Program	Dr. Tom Lind
MCO Contract Changes	Lynda Grajeda
Planning for the Next Meeting on April 22, 2026	Dr. Deborah Spitalnik

2026 MAAC Meetings:

January 15 | April 22 | July 22 | October 29

All MAAC meetings begin at 10 AM.

Visit the [MAAC Website](#) to register for meetings and to view meeting materials.