



## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM **Location:** Virtual [Zoom](#) Meeting

**Council Members:** Dr. Deborah Spitalnik, Chair | Dr. Rina Ramirez-Alexander | Doreen Atkinson | Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes  
 Chrissy Buteas | Mary Coogan | Theresa Edelstein | LaTina Gaines | Sam George | Cheryl Golden | Jamila McLean  
 Victor Murray | Dr. Becky Ofrane | Anthony Pantaleo | Hitesh Patel | Shirley Santillán | 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	Natalie Kotkin, Senior Advisor
Kristine Byrnes, Assistant Division Director	Shanique McGowan, Behavioral Health Policy Specialist
Dr. Shin-Yi Lin, Deputy Director of Policy	Jonathan Tew, Policy Director
Dr. Tom Lind, Medical Director	

Agenda Topic	Speaker
Welcome, Call to Order, and Introductions	Dr. Deborah Spitalnik
Remarks from the NJ Department of Human Services Commissioner	Dr. Stephen Cha, MD
H.R. 1 Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to Non-Citizen Eligibility</li> <li>• Community Engagement and Six-Month Eligibility Determinations</li> <li>• Member Outreach and Communications</li> </ul>	Gregory Woods Natalie Kotkin, and Kristine Byrnes
Rural Health Transformation Project Update	Dr. Shin-Yi Lin
1115 Comprehensive Demonstration: Upcoming Renewal	Jonathan Tew
Status Update: 1115 Behavioral Health Integration	Shanique McGowan
Community-Based Palliative Care Benefit	Dr. Tom Lind, MD
Planning for the Next Meeting on July 22, 2026	Dr. Deborah Spitalnik
Public Comment Period	<i>facilitated by:</i> Karen Enoch and Sam Krauss
Adjournment	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.