MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Location: The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College & Virtual via Zoom

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 Council Members: Ruby Goyal-Carkeek, NJ Dept. of Children & Families | David Helfand, NJ Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services | Jonathan Seifried, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Presenter from the NJ Department of Human Services:
Tara Oakman, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

Presenters from the NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services:
Gregory Woods, Assistant Commissioner
Itir Cole, Chief Strategist on Customer Experience
Jonathan Tew, Policy Director

Agenda Topic	Speaker
Welcome, Call to Order, and Introductions	Dr. Deborah Spitalnik
Key Considerations for Lasting Health System Change	Tara Oakman
Enrollment and Eligibility Updates	Gregory Woods
H.R. 1 Updates • Non-citizen Eligibility Changes • Work Requirements – Key Implementation Updates • Member Outreach and Communications • Impact on Members: Scenarios	Gregory Woods Itir Cole Jonathan Tew
Policy Updates • 1115 Demonstration Renewal • Behavioral Health Integration with Managed Care • Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) • Legislative Implementations - Coverage of Preventative Behavioral and Developmental Healthcare for Children - Medical Employer Responsibility Fee - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy	Jonathan Tew Gregory Woods
MCO Contract Changes	Gregory Woods
Public Comment Period	*facilitated by*: Karen Enoch and Sam Krauss
Planning for the Next Meeting	Dr. Deborah Spitalnik
Adjournment	Dr. Deborah Spitalnik

Visit the MAAC Website to register for meetings and to view meeting materials.