

**Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Hub Meeting #14 (March 27, 2026)**  
**Summary of Stakeholder Feedback**

The Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Advisory Hub met on March 27, 2026. The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) started the meeting by providing BH Integration Phase 1 transition period updates and MCO readiness.

Following these remarks, DMAHS staff shared updates about Aetna's end of Phase 1 transition on November 1, 2026, and Horizon's scheduled end of Phase 1 policies, including applying medical necessity to their prior authorization (PA) reviews and no longer requiring to automatically approve PAs for MH/SUD services effective April 1, 2026. The other three MCOs (Fidelis Care, United HealthCare, Wellpoint) will continue their transition period policies until further notice. Providers were encouraged to submit PA requests timely and accurately using correct information to prevent unnecessary service and payment delays. The rates will not change for in network (IIN) providers post Phase 1 transition period and out of network (OON) providers will be allowed to bill at the Medicaid FFS rate for the first 90 days after the end of transition period ends. However, OON providers may be paid below FFS rate floor after the 90 days following end of transition period date. For example, Horizon's OON providers may be paid below FFS rate floor after July 1, 2026.

DMAHS staff presented an overview of the provider satisfaction survey goals, timeline, structure, and content. Staff shared the 2025 provider survey distribution approach, participation, and design. Provider feedback on the survey experience was requested.

Next, DMAHS representatives shared update about the delay of Phase 2 go-live to 2027. Details about Phase 2 implementation are coming soon and will be shared with providers via BHI Advisory Hub, BHI Consumer & Advocate Forum, and provider focus groups.

DMAHS facilitators also provided an update on the integration of substance use disorder (SUD) laboratory services (drug testing) into Managed Care starting July 1, 2026. SUD labs will no longer be able to bill Medicaid FFS for SUD labs. MCOs will be required to reimburse out of network labs at the FFS rate floor until their networks comply with DMAHS future-defined standards to mitigate disruption during the transition period.

DMAHS staff announced bidirectional communication between NJSAMS and MCOs going live in Spring 2026. This will allow users to see prior authorization determinations in NJSAMS for Phase 1 services, which can assist with current administrative PA challenges. More information on NJSAMS provider training will be shared in the coming weeks.

To conclude the meeting, DMAHS facilitators shared updates about BHI Stakeholder communications and resources, such as State and MCO points of contact as well as information about the federal OBBBA website.

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Provider and member resources are available on the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services | Behavioral Health Integration Stakeholder Information](#)

- For providers, available resources include MCO and State points of contact, BH Integration overview and FAQ pamphlet, and DMAHS provider training presentations, recordings, FAQs, and end of transition period provider memo. BHI email updates are shared with providers and other stakeholders on a monthly basis. Providers will have an opportunity to share challenges related to claims, billing, credentialing, prior authorization, and care management during Provider Office Hours that will be held on at least a quarterly basis.
- For members, families, and caregivers, available resources include MCO points of contact and member handbooks, a BH Integration overview document, BH Integration FAQ, member meeting materials, and MCO Care Management FAQ document are available.
- Stakeholders can also access materials from previous trainings and office hours.

More information on this Advisory Hub meeting can be found in the meeting slides, which will be shared via email with the Advisory Hub email list and posted online on the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services | Behavioral Health Integration Stakeholder Information](#)

Stakeholders can contact the DMAHS Behavioral Health Unit at [dmahs.behavioralhealth@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:dmahs.behavioralhealth@dhs.nj.gov) with any questions on the information discussed in this meeting. The next meeting of the Advisory Hub will take place on June 26, 2026, at 10am EST.