

Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Hub Meeting #11 (July 23, 2025)
Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

The Behavioral Health (BH) Integration Advisory Hub met on July 23, 2025. Facilitators from the Center of Health Care Strategies (CHCS) started the meeting by reviewing the proposed services and implementation dates for each of the three phases of integration. The Department of Human Services Deputy Commissioner for Health Services then shared some remarks on the H.R. 1 federal reconciliation bill enacted by Congress on July 4, 2025.

Key Medicaid provisions from the federal reconciliation bill include eligibility and financing changes, as well as changes to member cost-sharing (co-pays). These changes are projected to impact Medicaid enrollment, federal and state funding provided to the program, and service access and utilization. The Deputy Commissioner also shared how these provisions will likely impact behavioral health providers and members receiving behavioral health services. Behavioral health services are exempt from mandatory cost-sharing and members with behavioral health needs may be exempt from certain eligibility changes, such as work requirements, but the State is awaiting federal guidance about these policies. Participants interested in hearing more about these provisions can refer to materials from the [Medical Assistance Advisory Council meeting](#) hosted on July 17, 2025.

Following these remarks, the Deputy Commissioner shared two key updates on Phase 1 implementation and Phase 2 services. First, Phase 1 extension period flexibilities have been extended until at least October 31, 2025. Additionally, the State will postpone the implementation of Phase 2 services, which were initially planned for integration on January 1, 2026. A new timeline will be shared in the coming months, and the State will ensure providers, members, and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) have ample time to prepare and engage in planning activities. The services planned for Phase 2 of integration include residential treatment services and Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs).

Next, staff from the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) presented an overview of the Phase 1 transition period extension. DMAHS is temporarily extending some transition period flexibilities related to prior authorizations (PAs) and out-of-network provider payments until at least October 31, 2025. DMAHS is assessing each MCO's readiness to inform the end of the transition period by reviewing PA, claims, and network data to monitor progress. Some of these metrics include outreach and education to providers with higher levels of PA denials, volume of provider complaints and escalations, and the presence of continuity of care plans for members who are at-risk for losing access to care. The MCOs have been hosting office hours to respond to provider questions around PAs and are working on sharing feedback with providers that they can implement to submit high-quality PA requests. More information on this training schedule is available in the accompanying presentation. Following this update, providers shared comments on how future training can focus on processes for submitting a PA correctly, as well as the importance of sending training information to state associations and other groups to share with their networks. Providers also spoke about their experiences working with MCOs on PAs and claims reimbursement and asked about how changes in Medicaid funding may impact how services are delivered.

DMAHS staff also shared NJ FamilyCare member and advocate priorities during the transition period extension, which include reaching out to providers to see if they participate in a member's network and

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joining MCO BH Care Management to help members coordinate their behavioral health and other health care services. A few advocates provided comments on how the State can understand member perspectives related to this transition and requests for materials to share with their colleagues and networks. The meeting facilitators shared that they would follow up with these materials and an update on member engagement activities in September, as DMAHS is working with New Jersey's Regional Health Hubs to collect survey and focus group data on behavioral health integration.

Additionally, DMAHS facilitators introduced the new BH integration annual quality report, which is part of the State's overarching quality strategy that involves defining standards, establishing data collection methods, and enforcing requirements for physical and behavioral health priorities. This report includes a summary of key MCO operational performance reports, results from member and provider satisfaction surveys, and quality and outcome measures established by the State and National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). The report will also include disparities in care amongst member satisfaction and outcomes, as well as plans for each MCO to identify performance goals and address gaps. This report is managed by the MCO BH Quality Supervisor, which is a new position that was added to the MCO contracts ahead of Phase 1 integration. Providers and members can participate in their respective surveys, with the provider satisfaction survey being available later this summer to complete.

To conclude the meeting, facilitators shared provider and member resources available on the [Behavioral Health Integration Stakeholder Information website](#).

- For providers, available resources include a guidance packet, points of contact document, BH Integration overview and FAQ pamphlet, and DMAHS provider training presentations, recordings, and FAQs.
- For members, families, and caregivers, a BH Integration overview document, BH Integration FAQ document, and care management FAQ document are available.
- Stakeholders can also access previous training and meeting materials.

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 [Behavioral Health Integration Stakeholder Information website](#). Stakeholders can contact the DMAHS Behavioral Health Unit at 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 September 26, 2025, at 10am EST.