

Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) convened its November meeting of the Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC), bringing together Medicaid members, family caregivers, and state staff to discuss ongoing initiatives, upcoming program updates, and the experiences of lowans receiving Medicaid services.

W-9 SUBMISSIONS

Participants were reminded to submit their W-9 forms. Those who already submitted W-9s have been assigned a Vendor ID by the State's Vendor Management system. This Vendor ID is required for processing stipend payments. Stipends will be issued as paper checks.

GAX FORM REIMBURSEMENTS

HHS introduced an updated GAX reimbursement form with pre-filled coding to reduce errors and speed up payment. Reimbursements for attending BAC and MAC meetings can be submitted within one week of the meeting. One GAX form must be submitted per meeting (e.g., one for orientation, one for today's meeting). Some fields will be pre-populated; others must be filled in by the participant (e.g., name, address, date of meeting). BAC members may complete the form digitally or by hand and submit via scan or photo to the MAC-BAC inbox. To avoid impacting Medicaid eligibility, stipends will be issued one check per month. Payments are considered income in the month received, not the month earned. Processing time may vary due to routing through the Fiscal Management Department. While meetings will always have a virtual option, in-person attendance may be reimbursed for mileage if applicable. Additional coding will be required for travel-related reimbursements.

MAC MEETING PARTICIPANT PREPARATION

BAC members are encouraged to attend the next Medical Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting on Thursday, December 11, from 1:00–3:00 PM. BAC members will be given an opportunity to introduce themselves to MAC attendees. Participation fulfills the federal requirement for 10% beneficiary representation on the MAC. Several high-priority issues raised by Medicaid members are being advanced to MAC leadership, including:

- Health Homes & Integrated Health Home (IHH) sunset
- Waiver redesign planning
- Dental coverage transitions and rural access concerns
- Clarity around new DentaQuest onboarding (launching July 1, 2026)

BYLAWS UPDATE

Draft bylaws outlining BAC membership, responsibilities, and operating procedures were presented. Members will receive the document by email, and future revisions will be clearly marked for transparency.

PRIORITY TOPICS FOR 2026

Several high-priority issues raised by Medicaid members are being advanced to MAC leadership, including:

- Health Homes & Integrated Health Home (IHH) sunset
- Waiver redesign planning
- Dental coverage transitions and rural access concerns
- Clarity around new DentaQuest onboarding (launching July 1, 2026)

OPEN DISCUSSION

BAC members provided valuable insight for an upcoming legislative report, highlighting needs such as:

- Access to out-of-state specialists when services are unavailable in Iowa
- Support for families transitioning youth from pediatric to adult care at age 18
- Clearer instructions and communication about Medicaid for Kids with Special Needs (MKSNS)
- Expanded childcare, EPSDT access, and case management options
- Better coordination with University of Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinics

Members also shared feedback on:

- Significant delays in CCO background checks, which make it difficult to hire needed caregivers
- Interest in allowing parents or guardians to serve as paid caregivers or host home providers, similar to programs in other states
- Clarifying rules around asset limits and savings options for people with disabilities
- Improving consistency and understanding of services such as medical daycare

After no further comment, the meeting of the Beneficiary Advisory Committee was concluded.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Submitted by

Nell Bennett

Recording Secretary

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