

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Angie Doyle-Scar, Co-chairperson of the Medical Advisory Council (MAC), called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established with seven members present

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by Erin Cubit and seconded by Co-chairperson Jason Haglund. The minutes were approved unanimously.

MEDICAID KEY PRIORITIES

Medicaid Director Lee Grossman opened with an overview of his background and outlined key priorities focused on improving responsiveness, advancing initiatives such as HOME and REACH, and preparing for federal policy and budget challenges, including projected Medicaid shortfalls.

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

Jessica Schultz from the Bureau of Immunizations presented on the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. She explained the program's federal structure, eligibility criteria, available vaccines, and Iowa's participation. Jessica clarified distinctions between Medicaid providers and VFC providers and addressed several questions related to provider enrollment, billing, underinsured children, and COVID-19 vaccine policy updates. She noted ongoing provider outreach, the impact of recent federal changes on stocking requirements, and continuing resources available to providers and families.

IOWA CSA OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

Rebecca Curtiss presented an extensive update on Intelligent Medical Objects (Television) and the Core Standardized Assessments (CSA). She explained the transition of assessment responsibilities from MCOs to the vendor, staffing challenges, backlogs, contract amendments, and actions taken to recover timely processing. Since early 2025, the vendor increased staffing from 19 to 84 assessors, improved scheduling processes, and significantly reduced the backlog. Rebecca reported full elimination of the backlog across nearly all waiver types, with expected full timeliness across all incoming assessments by mid-January. She acknowledged provider and member frustrations and thanked MCOs for maintaining bridge service plans to ensure continuity of care during delays.

MEDICAID CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER INTRODUCTION

Dr. Michael Line, the new Chief Medical Officer for Iowa Medicaid, introduced himself, sharing his background as a pediatrician and medical leader in rural health, hospital care, and behavioral health. He expressed enthusiasm for supporting Medicaid's clinical direction, collaborating across HHS divisions, and working closely with MCO medical officers. He emphasized his focus on innovative care delivery, improving access, and building stronger connections between public health and Medicaid.

DASHBOARD UPDATE

Kurt Behrens, Managed Care Reporting and Oversight (MCRO), presented updates on the [Iowa Medicaid Dashboard](#)¹ which can be accessed on the [Agency Dashboards webpage](#)². Q4 data was reviewed, including enrollment trends (approximately 700,000 members), prior authorization timeliness in the transition to a new seven-day federal standard, grievance reporting clarifications, vaccination data, and upcoming enhancements to network access mapping. Kurt also described planned additions to the Social Determinants of Health dashboard. Medicaid reports can be accessed on the [Medicaid Performance and Reports webpage](#)³.

¹<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiaMmlyMTQxNzltZmlwNS00ZDI2LThhMDAtZGI1MzZhNmNiMmM3liwidCI6IjhhMmM3YjRkLTA4NWEtNDYxNy04NTM2LTM4YTc2ZDE5YjBkYSJ9>

² https://hhs.iowa.gov/dashboard_welcome

³ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/performance-and-reports/medicaid-reports>

IHH SUNSET

Jenny Erdman followed with an update on the Integrated Health Home (IHH) program sunset and member transition, noting that the program ends December 31. Approximately 12,000 members were transitioned throughout 2025 into MCO case management, CCBHCs, other community services, or disenrolled when appropriate. She described monthly provider office hours, transition planning, warm handoffs, website updates, and continuing post-sunset support for billing and claims questions.

MANAGED CARE PLAN (MCP) WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT UPDATE

1. **Delta Dental Update:**
Nicole Miller discussed network size, recent state and incentive-based fee increases, targeted recruitment of dentists, loan-repayment initiatives, hygiene school partnerships, and investments in mobile clinics and expanded training programs.
2. **Iowa Total Care Update:**
Jay McLaren outlined initiatives to expand their LTSS and B3 provider networks through provider education, streamlined contracting, internal training, member and case manager feedback, and scholarships offered through DMACC to increase the healthcare workforce.
3. **Molina Healthcare Update:**
Nafissa Egbuonye highlighted scholarships for high school students entering healthcare fields, workforce training via Project ECHO for providers serving complex-needs members, and community health worker learning collaboratives supporting rural transformation efforts.
4. **Wellpoint Update:**
John McCalley described funding for caregiver training, transition support during the Glenwood Resource Center closure, skill-based training systems, community health worker training cohorts, and a workforce-focused job-matching portal to support members and expand the direct-care workforce.
5. **MCNA Dental Update:**
Morgan Tackett provided an overview of their recruitment and retention processes, provider support services, and efforts to maintain network adequacy.

RULES UPDATE

Janae Carter provided an update on MAC rules and the red-tape review process. She described the upcoming Notice of Intended Action, minimal required rule changes, creation of a standalone bylaws document for future flexibility, and the need to update meeting location rules to reflect hybrid meetings. Janae also noted the federal requirement for annual MAC reporting. The group briefly discussed scheduling for 2026 meetings, with a tentative first meeting date in mid-March pending final confirmation from leadership.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The meeting concluded with an open call for agenda topics, public comments, and a reminder to submit concerns or topic suggestions to the MAC and BAC shared email inbox MedicaidMAC-BAC@hhs.iowa.gov. A motion to adjourn was made by Brandon Hagen, seconded by Seth Brown, and approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Submitted by

Nell Bennett

Recording Secretary

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