
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (MAAC) — MAY 2024

Council Meeting. The [Medical Assistance Advisory Council \(MAAC\)](#) met on May 16, 2024, and discussed the following:

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) Public Notice. Jessica McBride, Project Officer of Compliance for [Iowa Medicaid](#), discussed Iowa's plans to seek a five-year extension of IHAWP, as current authority expires December 31, 2024. Ms. McBride reviewed IHAWP program goals for enrollees, including improvement of health and wellness through healthy behaviors, increased enrollee engagement and accountability in health care, and increased access to dental care. Public comment may also be included in the waiver submission to the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) for reauthorization.

IA SAIL Survey Announcement. Emily Eppens, Communications Manager in the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Behavioral Health and Aging and Disability Services, discussed the [Solutions for Aging with Independence and Longevity \(IA SAIL\)](#) project, which is a multisector plan on aging (MPA) that will streamline services for aging Iowans. The MPA will be drafted at the end of the first phase of the project to provide guidance and goals for Iowa to meet over the next 10 years. Community feedback on the MPA can be provided [here](#).

MAAC Updates. Emma Nutter, Communications Specialist for the HHS, discussed 2024 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 2385](#) (State Government Boards and Commissions Act), which consolidates the [Hawki Board](#) into the MAAC, which will assume the Hawki Board duties. Ms. Nutter also reviewed new federal administrative rules from the CMS for the MAAC, which creates a Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) made up of current or former Medicaid beneficiaries and those with direct experience supporting Medicaid beneficiaries, including family members and caregivers. The new rules require an annual report from the BAC. Implementation of the new rules is effective July 1, 2025, with additional requirements for the MAAC due in July 2027. Next, Ms. Nutter reviewed how to apply to be a public representative of the MAAC.

Managed Care Organization (MCO) Quarterly Report and Medicaid Dashboard. Kurt Behrens, Iowa Medicaid, discussed data published for quarter two in FY 2024. He reviewed MCO enrollment and grievance data from the [Iowa Medicaid Dashboard](#) along with discontinuance data from the [COVID Unwind Dashboard](#). Mr. Behrens explained how the HHS Unwind data includes members who discontinued Medicaid or Hawki but reapplied and were accepted to a different Medicaid program.

Medicaid Director's Update. Liz Matney, Medicaid Director, provided an update on implementation of waiver redesign for [Home- and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\)](#) that will be effective July 1, 2025. Project costs for the redesign are currently being determined within the HHS. Director Matney also discussed the class action lawsuit alleging that there is over-institutionalization in Iowa. The HHS will be holding focus groups and town halls with the population affected by an institutional enrollment plan along with holding town halls for the general public. Director Matney also talked about how the HHS will build a wraparound service package, including formal and community services, for children that will prevent future crises. Finally, Director Matney talked about the legislative budget enacted in 2024 Iowa Acts, [House File 2698](#) (FY 2025 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act), which was signed by the Governor on May 9, 2024.

Trualta Caregiver Support Presentation. Kunal Parikh, Client Innovation Manager at [Trualta](#), discussed a [partnership](#) with Iowa HHS to provide a portal for caregivers and case managers. Trualta is an interactive eLearning platform designed to help manage care for individuals at home. Mr. Parikh reviewed the background behind the platform and the features of the platform.

Managed Care Plan (MCP) Updates. The following updates were provided by representatives from MCPs:

- [Wellpoint](#) provided an update on community engagement and how Wellpoint associates are involved in the community. Wellpoint provided an update on community transformation grants to a food pantry in Durant, a Healthy Kids Day in Oskaloosa, and local food banks.
- [Iowa Total Care \(ITC\)](#) discussed the legislative session and how ITC is able to create innovations between legislative sessions. ITC also discussed the April 26, 2024, tornadoes in western Iowa, the federal response, and how ITC communicated with Medicaid members in those communities to provide resources. ITC also reviewed supplemental methods to provide transportation for emergency or unplanned trips to urgent care facilities or hospitals. ITC is expected to hold four provider summits this year: June 26 in Waverly, July 23 in Perry, August 8 in Sioux City, and September 11 in Atlantic. The number of community health fairs is also being expanded from 4 to 10 in 2024. The fairs provide fresh produce donated by Hy-Vee and an opportunity for accessibility to community groups.
- [Molina Healthcare](#) discussed a community engagement meeting held May 16, 2024, in Cedar Rapids and other community events that Molina Healthcare has held, including with [Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates \(iJAG\)](#) and the [Iowa CareGivers](#). Molina Healthcare also discussed June 2024 events celebrating Pride Month, along with other social engagements, and provided a strategic partnerships update.
- [Delta Dental of Iowa](#) discussed community outreach from Delta and current partnerships. Delta's [2023 Foundation Annual Report](#) was released, describing \$4.1 million in donations from the company's foundation. Delta Dental of Iowa discussed a project with all three MCOs to address members who have been admitted to an emergency room with dental conditions to determine future dental needs.
- [MCNA Dental](#) discussed MCNA's expectations for its new contract with the State, set to begin July 1, 2024, and reviewed MCNA's new member and provider website.

Open Comment. There was discussion of 2024 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 2251](#) (Postpartum Coverage, Medicaid Act), which expanded postpartum Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months and reduced income eligibility from 375.0% to 215.0% of the federal poverty level (FPL), and discussion of the pregnant women who would no longer be eligible for Medicaid due to that Act. There was also discussion on insurance options for these pregnant women and a trip that an Iowa delegation is taking to Washington, D.C., to speak to legislators regarding Medicaid.

More Information. Materials and the agenda for the MAAC can be found [here](#). The next MAAC meeting will be held virtually on August 22, 2024.

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