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NEVADA HEALTH AUTHORITY

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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Stacie Weeks
Director

Beneficiary Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: August 13, 2025 – 9:00AM

Name of Organization: The Nevada Health Authority – Division of Nevada Medicaid

Place of Meeting: 4070 Silver Sage Dr. Carson City, NV 89701; Teams Meeting

Council Members' Present:
Bill Sims
Azraella Gravelle
Grace Larkins
Kaelani Queen
Brooke Blanco
Ann Jensen, Medicaid Administrator

AGENDA

1. **Call to order**

Erica McAllister called this meeting to order at 9:02AM.

2. **Roll call**

Jonathan Figueroa conducted roll call. A quorum was established.

3. **Public Comment**

Jonathan called for public comment. There were no public comments.

4. **Council member introductions**

Jonathan requested council members introduce themselves and say a few words about themselves as a means of introduction to other members.

5. Overview of Beneficiary Advisory Council + Medicaid Presentation

Nevada Medicaid Administrator, Ann Jensen started with a Medicaid 101 presentation. This presentation gave an overview of the Nevada Medicaid program and provided history on the program, how care is delivered to Nevada Medicaid beneficiaries, mandatory and optional state plan benefits, and an overview of the Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) & Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC).

6. Orientation

An orientation slide deck was presented to council members by BAC Support staff, Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles. This slide deck covered BAC housekeeping items, getting to know members, feedback checklist, travel support, compensation, resources and support. A physical and digital copy of the orientation slide deck was provided to BAC members.

7. Discussion: Appointment of Chair & Vice-Chair

Discussion of the Chair & Vice-Chair positions was facilitated by Administrator Jensen. The chair & vice chair are appointed positions but any council member who is interested should let the BAC support staff team know by August 27, 2025.

8. Administrator's Report

a. 83rd Nevada Legislative Session

- i. Council members shared their background and experiences related to the legislative process, including public testimony and bill advocacy
- ii. It was noted that out of 176 Medicaid related bills that were submitted, only 43 bills were passed during session.
- iii. BAC members were invited to identify specific bills or topics they would like to receive updates on or provide feedback about.
- iv. Administrator Jensen highlighted the Graduate Medical Education program as a strategy to retain healthcare providers in Nevada.
- v. Dr. Malinda Southard, Deputy Director of Community Engagement & Workforce Development for the Nevada Health Authority, spoke about the new Rural Health Transformation Grant – established through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) – which aims to improve healthcare in rural Nevada, with a primary focus on maternal health, primary care, and mental/behavioral health services.

b. Statewide Managed Care

- i. Beginning January 1st, 2026, approximately 70,000 individuals in rural counties will transition from Fee-For Service (FFS) to Managed Care.
- ii. BAC members were asked to provide input on preferred methods of communication for this transition.
- iii. Members recommended a multi-channel approach, including email, NV Medicaid App notifications, regular mail, and in-clinic announcements to ensure timely and effective communication with beneficiaries.

c. Children's Behavioral Health Transformation

- i. An overview was provided of the recent U.S. Department of Justice finding that Nevada was out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), specifically the Olmstead provision.
- ii. The DOJ found that children with behavioral health disabilities were being unnecessarily institutionalized due to insufficient access to home and community-based services.
- iii. A settlement with the DOJ was reached earlier this year to address these issues and improve services. The state is in the process of developing additional home and community-based behavioral health services to support children in receiving necessary care within their homes and communities.

9. Discussion of BAC Bylaws

Bylaws were presented to the council by BAC Support staff, Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, for feedback or edits to the draft BAC Bylaws. No feedback or edits were brought up by council members.

10. Possible vote on BAC Bylaws:

- a. A motion was made by Council Member, Administrator Jensen, to adopt the bylaws as written. Council member Grace Larkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion: Open Forum

BAC Support staff facilitated a Menti Poll with three questions to encourage discussion among BAC council members:

- i. **Medicaid Priorities:** Members emphasized the need for improved access to services, citing a lack of in-network providers. They also highlighted the importance of service quality and equitable treatment for Medicaid recipients.
- ii. **Topics of Interest:** Members expressed interest in learning more about the referral process, care coordination, the impact of federal funding cuts, and changes related to the new renewal process under the "One Big Beautiful Bill."
- iii. **Experience Description:** The final question asked members to describe their experience as a Medicaid recipient or caregiver in 1–3 words. This question was not discussed and will be addressed at the next BAC meeting.

12. Next Meeting

November 10th, 2025, at 9:00AM.

13. Public Comment

No public comment.

14. Adjournment

Erica adjourned this meeting at 12:02PM on August 13th, 2025.

*Please note, due to a statewide internet outage, the BAC draft minutes will be distributed to members via email.