



Agenda
State Medical Assistance and Services Advisory Council
(“NightMAC”)
Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)

Location: Remote (Zoom)

November 20, 2024, 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order (Kimberly Jackson)

- **Introductions**
- **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Review and Approval of July and September Meeting Minutes (if quorum is present)

Motion made: Adela

Seconded: Kimberly Jackson

Motion carries unanimously

Agenda Review

No updates or changes

Department Updates

1. Budget Update

Presented by: Adela Flores-Brennan, HCPF

Adela presented slides on the budget update and the governor’s budget that was released.

Adela presented on the HCPF budget overview. Noted they were required to find budget reduction items.

Q: What portion of the budget shortfall might be related to fall off in medical and recreational marijuana tax collection?

A: Adela, I don’t have a good answer for that at the moment. I will need to look into that.



Q: Could the decline in marijuana tax revenue be linked to reduced tourism or medical tourism as other states legalize marijuana?

A: Adela: That's a great question. We know this revenue is a target for funding new programs, but I will need to gather more information to provide a clearer answer.

Q: Is Medicaid likely to approve psilocybin treatment for PTSD?

A: Adela: As of now, Medicaid does not cover psilocybin treatment or medical marijuana. These are not being considered in current conversations.

Q: Have potential federal changes, such as block grants or Medicaid expansion rollbacks, been factored into the budget projections?

A: Adela: No, these factors have not been included. There are too many unknowns at this point, and factoring them in would be speculative.

Q: Regarding rate reviews, if a category is still significantly below benchmark, will it face additional cuts?

A: Adela: Only categories exceeding 95% of Medicare benchmarks are being reduced. If specific codes are significantly below benchmark, they are not subject to cuts and will undergo the usual rate review process.

Q: Are the rate reductions across the board?

A: Adela: No, there is not an across-the-board reduction.

Q: When will the Joint Budget Committee hearings take place?

A: Adela: Healthcare policy and financing hearings will occur in December and continue after the holidays.

2. NightMAC Transition Updates

Presented by: Adela Flores-Brennan, HCPF

Overview:

- NightMAC will transition into a federally mandated Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) and Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC).
- Focus: Advising on Medicaid policy and administration while ensuring member representation.

Key Changes:

- Minimum member representation requirements, including state/local advocacy groups, providers, and beneficiaries.
- Separate BAC meetings before MAC sessions.
- Publication of annual reports.

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Next Steps:

- Revamping application and recruitment processes.
- Emphasizing accessibility and diversity in membership.
- Ensuring real-time interpretation and translation services for broader engagement.

Feedback on MAC/BAC Application

- Including an optional section for applicants to attach supporting documents (e.g., resumes or letters of recognition).
- Providing accessible, user-friendly materials summarizing committee purposes and responsibilities.
- Translating application materials into Spanish and potentially other languages.

3. Thank you to Current Members

Members and leadership reflected on significant contributions

4. Public Comment Period

No members of the general public were present

Adjourn

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