

# Kentucky Medicaid Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting Minutes

JUNE 2026

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**Date: June 4, 2026**

**Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:19 p.m.**

**Location: Hybrid (In Person at Department for Public Health Conference Suites, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, KY & Videoconference)**

## **Call to Order**

Chair, Dr. Sheila Schuster, called the meeting to order. The secretary conducted roll call.

## **Roll Call**

Members present included Dr. Sarah Moyer, Kendra Marsh, Susan Stewart, Heather Smith, Dr. Kelly Evans, Dr. Beth Partin, Dr. Dwight (Matthew) Burchett, Dr. Catherine Hanna, Philip Travis, Nina Eisner, Barry Martin, Dr. Sheila Schuster, Iesha Elam, Tania Whitfield, Theda Simpson-Mosby, Emily Beauregard, Eric Wright, Zachary Hart, Commissioner Lisa Lee, Commissioner Dr. Katie Marks, and representation for Commissioner Dr. John Langefeld. Members noted as absent included Linda Ross, Kent Gilbert, Mackenzie Wallace, Ronald Butler, Bryan Proctor, Peggy Roark, Taban Herrington, and Commissioner Lesa Dennis. A quorum was established.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Members were reminded of conflict-of-interest disclosure requirements. No new conflicts were reported.

## **Approval of Prior Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve April 2, 2026, MAC meeting minutes with an edit to the Vice Chair calling the meeting to order. Members also considered and approved extending future MAC meetings from two hours to two and a half hours to allow adequate time for discussion, public comment, and action items requiring votes.

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## **TAC Recommendations and Key Items**

The Behavioral Health TAC reintroduced a recommendation requesting that DMS rescind approval granted to WellCare to require prior authorization for outpatient individual, family, and group therapy services. Members expressed concerns that prior authorization could delay clinically necessary care and contribute to worsening symptoms, emergency department utilization, and hospitalization. Additional Behavioral Health TAC recommendations requested: (1) requiring MCOs to provide at least 30 days' notice before implementing provider-impacting changes and (2) improving transparency and communication regarding policy and payment changes. The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) TAC presented a recommendation regarding involuntary termination of waiver participants from provider services and requested ongoing progress updates regarding previously identified DMS action steps. All recommendations were approved to be advanced for DMS consideration and response.

Recommendations were also presented by a MAC member that were motioned, seconded and approved to move forward for DMS response.

## **Annual Report Review and Feedback**

An annual report draft was shared with MAC members to review and note feedback for discussion prior to the MAC meeting. Feedback focused on clarifying references to stakeholder engagement and solution development, and ensuring BAC participation was represented. Members recommended circulating the draft more broadly with additional feedback before finalization.

## **Public Comment**

Of the individuals who signed up for public comment and were in attendance discussed Medicaid coverage of lymphedema compression garments and related supplies. It was reported that current coverage levels may not align with clinical standards of care and described barriers experienced by Medicaid beneficiaries in obtaining medically necessary garments.

## **Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) Meeting Report**

The BAC Chair reported on the May BAC meeting. Meeting topics included H.R. 1 implementation planning, community engagement requirements, waiver waiting lists, provider shortages, workforce challenges, beneficiary access to services, and beneficiary understanding of application and renewal processes. BAC members shared examples involving waiting-list communications, difficulties accessing services, guardianship-related concerns, and questions regarding service billing accuracy. The BAC requested additional information from DMS regarding how families may access billing records and verify services. BAC members also reviewed waiting-list correspondence and

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recommended clearer language, more accessible formatting, and additional information regarding status updates and available supports. The BAC requested greater transparency regarding how BAC feedback is communicated to DMS leadership and incorporated into policy decisions to be further discussed at the next BAC meeting.

### **DMS Commissioner Updates and Discussion**

DMS Commissioner Lee presented and discussed the impact of House Bill 500, including funding for additional waiver slots in the Michelle P., Supports for Community Living (SCL), and Home and Community-Based (HCB) waiver programs. Updates were provided regarding the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) pilot, which currently includes ten participating sites and is authorized through December 31, 2027. DMS Commissioner discussed budget implications, potential future state plan amendments, and continuation planning if federal authority is not extended. Additional updates addressed increased state-directed payments, H.R. 1 implementation planning, community engagement requirements, stakeholder engagement activities, and communication materials under development. Legislative updates also included discussion of House Bill 470, Senate Bill 345, and other enacted legislation affecting Medicaid operations and program administration.

### **DMS Updates and Discussion**

DMS staff provided updates regarding Medicaid waiver programs and waiting lists. Discussion included current waiver capacity, demand for services, waiting-list management, and ongoing efforts to improve access to home and community-based services. Members discussed service availability, provider capacity, and the importance of maintaining clear communication with applicants and families regarding waiver processes.

### **New Business**

Members discussed future stakeholder engagement opportunities with the MOAB subcommittees. Additional meeting information was shared post-meeting.

### **Adjournment**

In closing, MAC officer nominations for the August meeting were announced. The next MAC meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2026. Members were encouraged to complete the meeting feedback survey. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

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