Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date:	Thursday, August 14, 2025
Time:	2:00 PM
Meeting called to order by:	Ronak Iqbal

In attendance

Member #1	Michelle Smith
Member #2	Sharon Steigerwalt
Member #3	Kolbi Young
Ronak Iqbal	Laurie Bird

Welcome and introductions

Ronak Iqbal, Medicaid Medical Director

Kolbi Young, Public Information Officer

Michelle Smith, Eligibility Policy Director and Special Projects Director

Sharon Steigerwalt, Special Projects

Laurie Bird, Administrative Secretary

Member #1 son on Medicaid

Member #2 also on Medicaid Advisory Committee, mom of child on waiver services, works with a DSPD grant

Member #3 daughter on DSPD

Approval of June 14, 2025 meeting minutes

Can someone that did not attend the last meeting motion and approve the minutes? Yes, they can and should. A member who was not in attendance at the last meeting motioned to approve the June 14, 2025 minutes.

Member #2 motioned to approve

Member #1 seconded the motion

Improvement Ideas

Kolbi introduced and facilitated the discussion to follow up on the improvement ideas from the last meeting and welcomed new ideas. In the last meeting it was brought to our attention that members are struggling to find specialists. We are currently working on updating our Find a Provider Tool to help with that. We will present the new updates to the Find a Provider Tool at our next meeting in October.

Cutting through the "red tape" to apply for Medicaid. How can we help the Rural population that may need resources to help them apply?

Parent liaison for members. Either a new position or existing position. Someone who can answer more specific questions to help Members find services. A BAC member had experiences in another state where their Medicaid was more proactive about getting needs met.

How to help members to not miss deadlines when needing to submit paperwork or a better approach to communicate what the timelines are.

Communication and input on the new work requirements and other federal changes that are forthcoming.

Council Updates

We talked about the council's function. The goal is to take ideas and issues that council members have and implement changes to improve the Medicaid Program.

What is EPAS? Employment-related Personal Assistant Services. Provides personal assistance for people who may have physical, mental, cognitive, and/or developmental disabilities that are working in an integrated and competitive setting. They have been determined to have a disability. They are

currently: receiving Utah Medicaid; employed in an integrated community setting making at least minimum wage; working a minimum of 40 hours per month or are self-employed; need personal assistance in order to maintain their employment.

We could have some of our team members that work with EPAS come present in a meeting if that would be helpful.

Sometimes it seems that the emphasis is more about who does not qualify for Medicaid rather than getting people healthy so they can work.

Asked if Michelle can bring what is coming out of the new Bill, H.R.1. Currently putting together documents regarding eligibility requirements, who is exempt, hardships, etc. Michelle would like to bring those to the BAC meeting for a brainstorming session.

The council appreciates that their voices are being heard.

For the federal changes coming, the MAC meeting is virtual and open to the public. There will be updates there as well. The next meeting is August 21st at 2:00. Go to https://medicaid.utah.gov/mcac/ for the link to attend virtually.

Remember that there is a lot of work that needs to be done before any actions are taken. Everything is sent to CMS to give us direction on how to implement the changes. There is not an immediate risk of being removed from Medicaid. Members that are not US citizens will be acted on first but not until Fall of 2026.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please send meeting topics or other correspondence to Sharon Steigerwalt (ssteigerwalt@utah.gov)