

BENEFICIARY ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Ronak Iqbal

In attendance

Member #1	Michelle Smith	Jordyn Peterson
Member #2	Sharon Steigerwalt	Denise Hansen
Member #3	Kolbi Young	
Member #4	Laurie Bird	
Member #5	Ronak Iqbal	
Member #6	Jennifer Watts	
Member #7	Debi Walker	

Welcome and introductions

Welcomed 3 new members

Approve August 14 meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Ronak, Member #5 seconded the motion.

Find a Provider Tool demonstration by Debi and Jennifer <https://fp.medicaid.utah.gov/find-provider/#>

Click on Find A Provider or Find A Facility.

Find A Facility:

Enter facility name

Enter facility Type

Choose language and filter options

Enter nearest location address

Click the Search button

To search for another provider click the Reset buttonGo to the Find A Provider tool.

Find a Provider:

Enter provider name

Choose speciality, language and filter options

Enter nearest location address

Click the Search button

To search for another provider click the Reset button

How often is the information updated? Weekly. We are one week behind so if a provider enrolls this week, their information will be uploaded next week.

How is the word getting out that this was updated and improved? It was sent in the monthly MIB (Medicaid Information Bulletin). Not sure how it is being communicated to members. The HPRs (Health Program Representatives) have access to the tool.

Are PMHPs (Prepaid Mental Health Plans) included in the search feature? No. Debi will ask if that can be added as well as ACOs (Accountable Care Organizations). **She will give Sharon an update and Laurie can add it to the minutes.**

EPAS (Employment-related Personal Assistant Services) Presentation by Denise <https://medicaid.utah.gov/ltc-2/epas/>

What is EPAS? EPAS is not a waiver. It does not have a waitlist. It is a program that provides personal assistance to people who have disabilities who work who need assistance in order to remain employed.

Who is eligible for EPAS? Have a disability established by the Social Security Administration or the State Medical Review Board. They currently have Medicaid. They are employed making at least minimum wage and working a minimum of 40 hours per month. They need personal assistance to maintain their employment.

What services are provided? There is quite a list, you can refer to the website. A few are dressing, eating, bathing, meal preparation, laundry and transportation to and from work.

Personal Assistants may not provide job coaching, job training, reasonable accommodations, transportation and other tasks not authorized on Care Plans.

Who can be a Personal Assistant? EPAS is a Self-Directed Services (SAS) program that allows the EPAS participant to select and hire his/her own personal assistant(s). A Personal Assistant: may NOT be a legal guardian; they must be at least 16 years of age; if they are helping with transportation, they must have a valid driver's license and automobile liability insurance. It can be family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, an individual hired through an ad.

How do I apply? Must be on Medicaid. If they are not, they need to apply through the Department of Workforce Services jobs.utah.gov Once approved, they can apply with the link on the EPAS website. It can take up to 60 days for approval. Medicaid allows up to 30 days for the assessment, then up to 30 days for the care plan.

Contact information is on the EPAS website.

How many are enrolled now? About 178 people currently. There is not a cap.

If not meeting requirements, is there a grace period? Yes, they need to report and work with their coordinator. They have 60 days. Case by case. There is an EPAS Review Board.

Is there a way to publicise this more? Yes, there is outreach. They attend fairs. If there is a group that would like a presentation, email epas@utah.gov

H.R. 1 Federal Updates by Michelle <https://medicaid.utah.gov/obbba/>

Please refer to the website.

Click on Resources and Tools for FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) for more information.

Michelle focused on community engagement/work requirements. They are effective January 1, 2027 for Adult Expansion Medicaid and TAM (Targeted Adult Medicaid).

Work 80 hours in a month

Participate in community service

Enrolled in school at least half time

Making federal minimum wage that equals 80 hours a month, or a combination of any of those activities that equals 80 hours a month.

Some adults will not be required to complete the work requirement if they meet an exclusion, such as being a caretaker of a child under 14 years of age or individuals with certain medical conditions. Some examples: Pregnant or 12 month postpartum, under age 19, those on Medicare part A & B, foster youth, those enrolled in parent/caretaker relative and any other mandatory eligibility group, if incarcerated within the past 3 months, American Indian or Alaska native, medically frail, disabled, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), SNAP, drug/alcohol addictions program.

We are working on getting more data services so we don't have to continually ask members for more verifications. Examples: Social Security, Wages, Eligibility System, National Change of Address.

We want members to be successful.

Please email questions, thoughts on how we can do outreach, or suggestions on helping navigate, etc. to Michelle michellesmith@utah.gov

It was suggested to bring those items to this meeting to discuss. **Let's have a Q&A discussion in the next meeting with Michelle.**

Council Updates. This is for any items members want to discuss or to ask questions.

Next meeting: January 8, 2026, 2:00-3:00pm

Please email meeting topics or other correspondence to Sharon ssteigerwalt@utah.gov