



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 22, 2019  
**TO:** Lori Coyner, Medicaid Director and Jeremy Vandehey, Director of Health Policy and Analytics, Oregon Health Authority  
**FROM:** Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee  
**RE:** End of Year Report, **2018**

For almost three decades, Oregon's Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC), a federally-mandated body,<sup>1</sup> has participated in policy development, advising, and assessment of Oregon's administration of its Medicaid program, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). The Committee has a successful history of Medicaid policy development that spans:

- Policy framework for the original OHP 1115 waiver in 1993 and subsequent waiver renewals
- Expansion of health insurance coverage for children through [HealthyKids](#) (2006)
- Provision of [comprehensive benefits](#) for Oregon's ACA expansion population (2012)
- Reducing and mitigating [churn](#) in a post-ACA coverage landscape (2014)
- Improving OHA assessment/monitoring of [access to oral health services](#) in Medicaid (2016)
- Developing [Guiding Principles for Oregon Medicaid](#) to guide the state in times of financial and program uncertainty and changes (2017)

The MAC continues to serve a unique role by assembling a multi-faceted, publicly-convened group of stakeholders, including coordinated care organizations (CCOs), providers, advocates, and Medicaid members, to advise the state Medicaid agency on the administration of OHP. The Committee is guided by a set of long-standing principles designed to promote consumer engagement, health equity, coverage affordability, care continuity, and financial sustainability for Oregon's Medicaid program.

In 2018, Oregon prepared for the second procurement for Medicaid plans under the Coordinated Care Organization model launched in 2012. The second procurement focused in four priority areas identified by Governor Brown: value-based payment, behavioral health, cost, and social determinants of health and health equity. While the committee provided input on the policy development process overall, social determinants of health and health equity was a particular focus given the MAC's 2018 policy work. At a federal level, the committee continued to monitor federal proposals to alter or defund the Medicaid program, and joined the state in submitting comments to protect Oregon's immigrant families and the state's public and economic health.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with [42 CFR 431.12](#) and ORS [414.221-225](#).

## Notable accomplishments by the committee in 2018

### **Social Determinants of Health and Health-related Services Recommendations**

In 2018, the MAC completed a [set of recommendations](#) for Oregon CCOs and OHA to address Social Determinants of Health in the second phase of health transformation (i.e. the next procurement). Informed by a stakeholder survey, presentations by CCOs and community partners, and research into national and other state practices, the MAC developed:

- 1) Definitions of social determinants of health and social determinants of health equity for Oregon CCOs;
- 2) Recommendations on the role and key strategies CCOs can use to address SDOH in their communities; and
- 3) A set of recommendations for OHA to support CCOs in implementing the MAC's SDOH recommendations

In addition, the MAC advised OHA in the development of a guide on health-related services and housing (in progress as of this report).

The MAC shared its full recommendations and report with OHA leadership and the Oregon Health Policy Board in May 2018.

### **Inadmissibility and deportability on public charge grounds – proposed rule**

In the fall of 2018, the Department of Homeland Security released a proposed rule on inadmissibility and deportability on public charge grounds, including a proposal to add Medicaid and other critical programs related to food and housing assistance to the set of programs that can be considered when weighing an immigrant's application for naturalization and citizenship. The Governor's office coordinated a response from various state agencies, including OHA, and the MAC added the committee's voice with [comments in opposition of the proposed rule](#).

### **Learning from OHP members**

To support the MAC's work advising on Medicaid policy using a member and community lens, every few months the committee invites an OHP member to share their story to help the committee better understand the member experience with the Oregon Health Plan. In 2018, the MAC heard from Brandy, an OHP member from Southern Oregon, who shared challenges with accessing health services in her community, as well as her experience struggling to find affordable, stable housing. The committee also heard from Marti, who shared about her challenges and successes accessing needed services for her daughter who has a disability, including recommendations for how OHP can improve its prescription and referral system for medical supplies such as diapers. In addition, the MAC heard in May an update from OHA Ombuds program manager Ellen Pinney about various challenges experienced by members.

## **Additional monitoring and advisory to OHA and DHS**

The MAC provided additional policy advisory to OHA and DHS in the following ways:

- Provided stakeholder input to the four key areas of policy development for CCO 2.0: behavioral health, social determinants of health, value-based payment, and cost.
- Continued to monitor OHA and DHS progress toward improvements in eligibility and enrollment systems, including the integrated eligibility project.

The MAC received presentations on a variety of topics to support and aid its work:

- ❖ Health-related services deep dive by Chris DeMars (OHA)
- ❖ Oregon Accountable Health Communities by Dr. Bruce Goldberg, Oregon Rural Practice Based Research Network
- ❖ Legislative update from Dawn Jagger (OHA) and Angela Allbee (DHS)
- ❖ CCO 2.0 policy proposals by OHA staff
- ❖ Ombuds update by Ellen Pinney
- ❖ ONE System/Integrated Eligibility by Vivian Levy (OHA), Sam Osborn and Nathan Singer (DHS)
- ❖ Oral health program update by Bruce Austin and Kellie Skenandore (OHA)
- ❖ CCO Incentive Measure Program update by Sara Kleinschmit and Milena Malone (OHA)
- ❖ Long-term Services & Supports system coordination for APD and ODDS by Mike McCormick, Anna Lansky, and Bruce and Rhonda Busek (OHA)
- ❖ Inadmissibility and deportability on public charge grounds proposed rule & state actions by Jeannette Taylor and Linda Roman
- ❖ SB558 update and discussion by Josie Silverman-Mendez

As the state prepares to enter into the second set of five-year contracts for Medicaid plans under the CCO model, and as Oregon begins to plan for its next Medicaid waiver, the MAC is poised to continue providing guidance and policy development support to OHA and DHS to improve Medicaid for members and communities.

We hope this report provides insight into the MAC's work, and the policy and other opportunities to improve the Oregon Health Plan for the over one million members and their families.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah Rigsby  
Chair, Medicaid Advisory Committee

## **Medicaid Advisory Committee Members**

**Jeremiah Rigsby**, Co-Chair, Director, Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs, CareOregon

**Laura Etherton**, Co-Chair, Policy Director, Oregon Primary Care Association\*

**Tamara Bakewell**, Project Coordinator for Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (OCCYSHN)

**Glendora Claybrooks** NCMA, MHA, GCPM, OHP member; CAC Member, Health Share

**Regina Dehen**, ND, MAcOM, Chief Medical Officer and Dean of Clinics for the National University of Natural Medicine

**Robert DiPrete**, public member, Former MAC Director, retired Deputy Administrator, OHPR\*\*

**Miguel Angel Herrada**, Health Equity and Diversity Strategist for Pacific Source

**Leslee Huggins**, DMD, Pediatric Dentist, dual-trained in the specialties of Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics

**Anna Lansky**, MPA Assistant Director, Division of Developmental Disability Services, DHS, Ex Officio Member

**Marcia Hille**, Executive Director, Sequoia Mental Health Services

**Maria Rodriguez**, MD, MPH OB/GYN, OHSU

**Ross Ryan**, OHP member, consumer advocate

**David Simnitt**, Interim Medicaid Director\*/Chris Norman Medicaid Program Director, OHA, Ex-Officio Member

\*The following member terms ended before year end:

David Simnitt (October 2018)

Laura Etherton (December 2018)

Regina Dehen (November 2018)

\*\*Robert DiPrete passed away in September of 2018. Bob was a dedicated member of the Medicaid Advisory Committee and will be greatly missed by his colleagues and friends on the committee and at the OHA and DHS.

