



October 7, 2020

Lori Coyner
Medicaid Program Director
Oregon Health Authority

Dear Ms. Coyner:

Members of the Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) are grateful for our role in advising the state on Medicaid policy and planning through a consumer and community lens. We are proud of Oregon's Medicaid program as a national model for integrated and coordinated health care that is committed to eliminating health inequities, addressing the needs of the whole person, and containing costs.

Earlier this year, the MAC discussed challenges regarding timely OHP enrollment for newborns. We are aware that delays in enrollment for this vulnerable population are harmful for newborns - who may not receive timely assessment and needed care - but also that such delays create unnecessary stress for the parents of newborns at a time when they are already burdened by the many pressures of caring for an infant. These factors make this an urgent issue. We understand the enrollment process is complicated, with many different scenarios and factors that impact the speed with which enrollment in OHP is completed.

Recently we received an update regarding work underway to increase the percentage of eligible newborns who are enrolled in OHP within 3 days of birth. We are pleased to hear about efforts to understand the root causes of this problem and identify options for addressing this issue within Oregon's Medicaid program.

MAC members strive to make recommendations that that will improve the lives and wellbeing of Oregonians and their families. It is with this purpose in mind that we submit this letter of support for prioritizing the activities and resources required to implement the processes and related supports that will substantially expedite enrollment for OHP's youngest members.

Thank you for your work to improve the health and lives of Oregon Medicaid members and their families.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah B. Rigsby, JD
MAC Co-chair

Leslee Huggins, DDS
MAC Co-chair

Medicaid Advisory Committee Members

Jeremiah Rigsby – MAC Co-chair and Chief of Staff, CareOregon

Leslee Huggins – MAC Co-chair and Pediatric Dentist

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

Miguel Angel Herrada – Health Equity and Diversity Strategist for Pacific Source, Central Oregon

Brandy Charlan – Caregiver and OHP Member

Adrienne Daniels – Deputy Director, Integrated Clinic Services, Multnomah County

Karun Virtue – Chair, Lincoln Country Community Advisory Council

Lavinia Goto – Operations Manager, Oregon Wellness Network

Daniel Alrick – Chair, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Alfaro – Child Welfare Case Worker, DHS

Anna Lansky, MPA – Deputy Director, Division of Developmental Disability Services, DHS, Ex-Officio Member

David Inbody - CCO Operations Manager, Oregon Health Authority, Ex-Officio Member