



## Medical Care Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

**Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

**Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Location: Agency for Health Care Administration Headquarters**

**2727 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
Conference Room A – C  
Microsoft Teams**

## Attendance

Committee Members			
Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)		Department of Children and Families (DCF)	
	Jason Weida, Secretary, AHCA		Shevaun Harris, Secretary, DCF
	Kristin Sokoloski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Medicaid & Procurement	✓	Casey Penn Assistant Secretary, DCF
Department of Health (DOH)		Associations & Beneficiaries	
	Joseph A. Ladapo, M.D., PhD., Surgeon General		Diane Sanders-Cepeda, D.O., C.M.D., Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
✓	Andrea Gary, Director, CMS Plan Administration		Michael Lawton, Florida Association of Health Plans
Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)			Stanley Whittaker, MSN, ARNP, Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners
	Taylor Hatch, Director of APD	✓	Victoria Zepp, Team 180 Consulting – Samantha Benvenisty
✓	Lorena Fulcher, Chief of Consumer Supports		David Mica, Jr., Florida Hospital Association
Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA)		✓	Michael Lockwood, Beneficiary
✓	Ashley Apthorp, Director of Statewide Community-Based Services		
✓	Michelle Branham, Secretary of DOEA		
Presenters			
	Name	Agency, Division, Title	
	Austin Noll	AHCA, Medicaid Policy & Quality, Deputy Secretary	
	Ken Kniepmann	AHCA, Medicaid Policy & Quality, Assistant Deputy Secretary	



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	Matt Cooper	AHCA, Health Care Data, Assistant Deputy Secretary
	Pam Hull	AHCA, Medicaid Operations, Assistant Deputy Secretary
	Mike Magnuson	AHCA, Florida Health Care Connections (FX), Agency for Health Care Administrator
√ = Present for the Meeting; T = Attended Remotely		

## Meeting Minutes

**Documents Distributed:**

- Agenda
- MCAC PowerPoint Presentation

**Opening Remarks**

*Austin Noll*

Austin Noll, Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Policy, Quality & Operations (AHCA or Agency), called the January 31, 2024, Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) meeting to order. Mr. Noll welcomed all in attendance and began introductions with Agency personnel. He then thanked the committee members and members of the public. Mr. Noll proceeded to remind the audience of the blackout period.

**Roll Call/Legislative Updates**

*Austin Noll*

Mr. Noll proceeded with the rollcall and had the members introduce themselves. At the conclusion of the roll call, Mr. Noll introduced Mr. Ken Kniepmann.

**Comprehensive Quality Strategy (CQS)**

*Ken Kniepmann*

Ken Kniepmann provided an overview of the Comprehensive Quality Strategy (CQS) document. The presentation covered key goals, initiatives, and activities tied to the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program, emphasizing four primary objectives: reducing hospital events, improving birth outcomes, enhancing dental care access, and facilitating transitions to home and community-based settings. At the conclusion of Mr. Kniepmann’s presentation, he presented the floor back to Mr. Noll.

**1115 Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

*Austin Noll*

Austin Noll provided an in-depth discussion on the 1115 Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility extension request. He highlighted that this initiative, in response to House Bill 121, aimed to request a new five-year 1115 research and demonstration project. The primary goal was to increase CHIP eligibility from the current threshold of 210% to 300% of the federal poverty level. Essentially expanding coverage for children in families with higher incomes. Additionally, the proposal included establishing graduated monthly premiums to ensure affordability as family incomes grow. The presentation covered the existing program, proposed changes, income based premium tiers, and the expected impact on enrollment. Lynn from the Florida Health Justice Project expressed enthusiasm about the Chip expansion and sought clarification on the meaning of the second expenditure authority on Table 6, Specifically related conditions of enrollment. The discussion fostered a comprehensive understanding of the initiative and its potential impact on children’s healthcare coverage.



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**Public Comments**

***Austin Noll***

Mr. Noll opened the floor for public comments and to please raise your hand and we will bring the microphone to you. No public comments were made. Mr. Noll concluded the public comment portion of the meeting and transitioned to closing remarks.

**Closing Remarks**

***Austin Noll***

Austin Noll encouraged committee members and members of the public to send their questions or agenda topic recommendations to Kissa Smith in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Medicaid Operations and Procurement, at the following email address: [kissa.smith@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:kissa.smith@ahca.myflorida.com)

**Adjourn**

***Austin Noll***

Mr. Noll thanked the Committee members and members of the public for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 11:36 AM.