



Children & Youth Focused Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting Minutes - DE-IDENTIFIED

Date: April 1, 2026

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Facilitator and recorder: Cristina Bejarano

Interpretation: Patty Garcia

Meeting purpose:

- Provide a DentaQuest educational presentation on Medicaid dental benefits and oral health resources
- Present an overview of current Children-Youth MAC membership
- Kick off collaborative outreach efforts to recruit additional MAC members
- Build connections with Colorado Access Policy team and initiate collaboration for future engagement

Next meeting: June 3rd, 2026

Attendees: MAC Members; Heather Schenkel, Member Outreach & Education Coordinator at DentaQuest; and Colorado Access Staff: Carrie Jones, Cristina Bejarano, Kelly Shanahan.

Recap

Today's Children and Youth MAC meeting focused on presentations from DentaQuest and Colorado Access's policy team, followed by member feedback and recruitment discussions. Heather Schenkel from DentaQuest provided an overview of dental benefits for Medicaid recipients, including the member portal, Find a Dentist tool, and oral health education resources, while Carrie Jones from Colorado Access explained the state's legislative session and 2026 policy priorities focusing on protecting health coverage access, Medicaid sustainability, and enhancing whole person care. Members covered current MAC membership and discussed the need to represent missing perspectives, particularly around CHP+ coverage and refugee populations, with suggestions to recruit at community organizations like recreation centers and faith-based groups. The conversation ended with plans to double the MAC membership and schedule future presentations from population health and care coordination teams.

Action Items

Item	Owner	Status	Due Date
Send the recruitment flyer to MAC members for feedback and distribution	Cristina	In Process	4/15/26
Follow up with Jill regarding information on youth participation opportunities (e.g., CDPHE groups) for her son.	Cristina	Done	4/15/26
Coordinate with community engagement and other internal teams to develop and implement a strategy to recruit additional MAC members, including reaching out to suggested organizations and ensuring representation from CHP+ and other missing perspectives.	Cristina	In Process	4/20/26
Provide feedback on the recruitment flyer and suggest additional places/organizations for recruitment via email or phone call to Cristina.	MAC members		4/13/26
Send meeting notes (including Heather's educational materials link) by the end of next week	Cristina	Done	4/10/26
Add MAC member names to the internal/website member list	Cristina		4/30/26
Follow up individually with members for contact information on suggested recruitment agencies/organizations to determine existing partnerships.	Cristina		4/20/26
Two members asked to be connected to the policy team for additional engagement. Cristina will make the connection.	Cristina	In progress	4/15/26
Complete meeting evaluation survey (link provided in chat).	Members		4/10/26

Agenda and Notes

Time	Activity/Discussion Item	Participation Spectrum and Purpose of Agenda Item
11:30	Welcome and Introductions	<i>Connect</i> Cristina opened the meeting and supported language access, ensuring everyone could participate fully. The group confirmed interpretation functionality before beginning introductions. Members shared brief personal check-ins, including spring milestones, housing updates, self-care, and family highlights.

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11:45	DentaQuest Presentation	<i>Inform</i> Presenter: Heather Schenkel, Dental Hygienist, DentaQuest Heather provided an overview of DentaQuest’s role administering dental benefits for Health First Colorado (Medicaid) and CHP+ members. DentaQuest supports over one million Medicaid members and approximately 80,000 CHP+ members through outreach and education. Key highlights included: • Online member portal, benefit handbook, and interpreter services • Find a Dentist tool (noted improvements and remaining accuracy challenges, especially for specialty care) • No co-pays, no annual maximums, and no out-of-pocket costs for pediatric dental benefits • Orthodontic coverage up to age 21 when medically necessary <i>Oral Health Education</i> Heather facilitated an interactive oral health education session, including a quiz and practical tips. Key takeaways include the effectiveness of water flossers, the benefits of electric toothbrushes, the importance of nighttime brushing, and the connection between oral health and overall health. The direct link to DentaQuest educational materials is: https://www.dentaquest.com/en/news-and-resources/oral-health-tips/general-oral-health/colorado-community-partners
9:45	Policy Connection	<i>Inform and invitation to Collaborate</i> Presenter: Carrie Jones, Health Policy Analyst, Colorado Access Carrie shared an overview of the current legislative environment, highlighting state budget pressures and potential Medicaid impacts. She outlined three guiding policy priorities for 2026. • Protecting access to health coverage • Promoting Medicaid sustainability

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		Strengthening connections to whole person care Carrie offered to continue being a resource for questions and future meetings. Two members asked to be connected to the policy team for additional engagement. Cristina will connect members to Carrie's team.
10:00	Let's get to Work	<i>Inform and Collaborate</i> Engagement and Committee Business Cristina reviewed recent MAC engagement efforts, including member interviews and feedback on Medicaid forms. A summary of the individual interviews showed that members expressed interest in more collaborative participation, skill-based involvement, and the formation of subcommittees or workgroups. They requested subcommittees to address specific initiatives and more agile communication processes Committee Communication and Support Programs Cristina discussed the role of the committee in addressing confusing information from Colorado Access and highlighted the value of collective feedback in improving communication. She mentioned the importance of mentorship and community outreach strategies within the MAC. A member shared insights about a potential tax credit of \$1,200 for families caring for certain relatives and suggested advocating clearer requirements and longer sustainability of such support programs. Recruitment, Representation, and Foster Care Discussion The group discussed gaps in MAC representation, including CHP+ families, refugee communities, mixed-status households, and foster care youth and families. Recruitment ideas included faith-based organizations, recreation centers, refugee programs, and other community-based organizations. Members raised concerns about Medicaid transitions for foster care youth, particularly when aging out of pediatric systems.

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		The conversation ended with a request for participants to suggest specific recruitment locations and agencies in the chat. A recruitment flyer will be submitted to the group for co-creation.
10:50	Upcoming Meetings Co-create agenda for next meeting	<i>Collaborate</i> The group discussed updating the website with member information. All were okay with posting their names in the web. Upcoming meetings were planned to address population health and care coordination topics, with potential user testing and a presentation from HCPF colleagues in July.
10:55	Session Reflection	<i>Collaborate</i> Take a quick survey that provides staff with feedback about this meeting.
11:00	Adjourn	