

MINUTES

BHP Advisory Council Meeting #15

Monday, October 20, 2025

Summary:

The BHP blueprint was approved by the federal government and operations are moving forward. Bonnie shared with the advisory council 1) a draft carrier notice for pregnancy transitions and 2) draft language to notify enrollees that provider networks are being finalized and will be added to the online provider directory as contracts are signed.

Advisory Council Members and Attendance:

Name	Organization	Attended
Linda Elam, Chair	Elam Strategies	Yes
Claire McAndrew, Vice Chair	DC HBX Standing Advisory Board Member	
Rev. Karen Curry	Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church; Co-Convener of the Ward 7 Faith Leaders; Member of the Mayor's Interfaith Council and the MPD Faith Advisory Council; Health Navigator	Yes
Rev. Patricia Fears	Senior Pastor, Fellowship Bible Church; Wednesday Clergy Fellowship; Leadership Council for Healthy Communities	
Maria Gomez	DC Health Link Hispanic Advisory Council	
Stan Jackson	Anacostia Economic Development Corporation	Yes
Ambrose Lane	Chair, Health Alliance Network	
Mark LeVota	DC Behavioral Health Association	Yes
Jerson Hill Lockridge	Chair, Ward 8 Health and Wellness Council	
Wanda Lockridge	William O. Lockridge Community Foundation	
Erin Loubier	Whitman Walker Health	

Allison Mangiaracino/ Katherine Wait/Christopher West/Allison Taylor	Kaiser Permanente	
Tazra Mitchell	DC Fiscal Policy Institute	Yes
Kim Perry	DC Action	
Dionne Reeder	Far SE Family Strengthening Collaborative	
Patricia (Tricia) Quinn	DC Primary Care Association	Yes
Rev. Dr. Anika Wilson- Brown	Lead Pastor, Union Temple Baptist Church; Mental Health Expert/Counselor	
Dr. Dock Winston, M.D.	Medical Society of the District of Columbia	
Regina Woods	MedStar Family Choice	
Andrew Patterson	Legal Aid Society of DC	Yes
Justin Palmer	DC Hospital Association	Yes

Technical Assistance

Name	Organization	Attended
Dr. Chimene Liburd, M.D.	DHCF, Chief Medical Officer	
Howard Liebers	DISB, Supervisory Insurance Examiner	

Welcome & Call to Order

- Linda Elam welcomed the group.

Updates & Consumer-Facing Materials

- Bonnie Norton announced that the BHP blueprint was approved by the federal government and operations are moving forward.

Pregnancy transitions and carrier model notice:

- Bonnie reminded the group that when someone enrolled in Healthy DC Plan becomes pregnant, they become eligible for Medicaid and ineligible for Healthy DC Plan. Carriers are required to

notify HBX when an enrollee is pregnant, and their coverage will be transferred. HBX will need confirmation from the enrollee that they are pregnant in order to process the eligibility change.

- The model notice is intended for carriers to send to the enrollee to let them know of their eligibility for Medicaid and that HBX will be reaching out to confirm the pregnancy.
- Sarah Candler asked what ICD10 codes will be used to identify if someone is pregnant. Someone who is interested in terminating a pregnancy would have a different code. Sarah asked if someone in this situation would still be eligible for Medicaid.
 - Bonnie shared that there are no specifications or plans with the carriers regarding that scenario, but HBX is interested in feedback on that process.
- Sarah shared that services to terminate pregnancy are becoming harder to access, so more people are turning to primary care doctors for that purpose. Someone who has a pregnancy and is interested in termination might worry that they will lose eligibility for any of their health insurance if they report their pregnancy status.
 - Bonnie clarified they will be eligible for either Medicaid or Healthy DC Plan.
 - Linda clarified that HBX is concerned about the opposite problem, where someone is pregnant, but it is hard to identify them.
 - Sarah shared that there are different codes for positive and negative pregnancy tests, which could be used.
- Tazra Mitchell asked what proof would be required for the individual to confirm their pregnancy.
 - Bonnie clarified that an attestation is sufficient, by phone or through the individual's online application.
- Patricia Quinn asked if Medicaid continuous coverage for 12 months postpartum covers 12 months after termination or miscarriage.
 - Bonnie confirmed yes.
- Bonnie asked for feedback on the carrier pregnancy notice template.
 - Hannah Eichner suggested "Your medical records show that you *may have* recently used pregnancy-related services.", instead of just declaratively saying "Your medical records show that you recently used pregnancy-related services"? In case there are coding errors, for privacy reasons, etc.
 - Linda agreed that the qualifier would help.
 - Tazra Mitchell and Andrew Patterson liked Hannah's suggestion.
- Bonnie asked for feedback from the advisory council by tomorrow. The model notice will be shared with carriers this week.
- Stan Jackson asked if there is a cut off for enrollees who are 64 and will be turning 65 soon.
 - Bonnie clarified that eligibility is up until someone turns 65.

Provider Networks

- Given the tight timeline for Healthy DC Plan, there will be a process for carriers to have provider networks fully developed and onboarded in time to be incorporated into HBX's provider search tool. HBX is working with plans to finalize hospital and FQHC participation before November 1, with a deadline of October 22. Carriers are required to contract with all hospitals and FQHCs that

they currently contract with for Medicaid. Bonnie thanked Patricia Quinn for support with contracting between the hospitals and FQHCs. Not all contracts are signed, and Bonnie shared that it would be helpful for the advisory council to follow up with any hospitals or FQHCs for whom they have relationships with.

- Carriers are also working on broader provider networks, and not all of that data will be available on November 1. That information will be added to the plan tool once it is available. HBX requested feedback on how this is messaged to enrollees, so they understand more information is forthcoming. HBX shared the proposed language.
- Andrew Patterson asked if a provider that an enrollee sees through Medicaid will not be participating in Healthy DC Plan, such as smaller doctors' offices, if there will be any flexibility to let enrollees switch plans once provider networks are finalized.
 - Bonnie stated that individuals will be able to change plans during open enrollment through the end of January. Beyond that, a special enrollment period (SEP) will be required to change plans, and there is no SEP currently for this situation.
 - Andrew asked if an SEP could be added for this situation.
 - Mila stated that the process for establishing a new SEP would be to take the idea to HBX's standing advisory board and if they recommend it, then HBX would take the suggestion to the executive board. However, based on the federal government's recent Marketplace integrity regulation, Mila stated that the federal government is not looking to expand SEPs.
 - Linda clarified that changing plans would not necessarily solve the problem that Andrew raised, because if a provider does not participate under one Healthy DC Plan carrier, they likely would not participate under a different carrier.
 - Andrew raised if the formularies have different requirements for the Healthy DC Plan it may be helpful for an enrollee to switch their plan.
 - Mila stated that formulary changes would not qualify as a reason to allow for an SEP. Individuals can go online now and look at the formularies through anonymous shopping. If there are significant differences, Mila asked that this information be shared so it can be addressed with carriers. Mila clarified there is a possibility for an SEP if an enrollee loses their providers, but there is no possibility for an SEP if the formulary changes.

Questions & Discussion

- Patricia Quinn asked to confirm that HBX intends to include dental if the enhanced premium tax credits are extended.
 - Melissa confirmed yes. Mila stated the carrier agreement would automatically trigger dental and vision coverage if the enhanced tax credits are extended, but it will take some time for networks to be established. HBX's system is currently in code freeze and cannot be updated until after open enrollment.

Closing & Next Steps

- Feedback on the model carrier pregnancy notice should be shared with HBX by tomorrow.