



HFS

Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

JB Pritzker, Governor
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

401 S. Clinton St., Chicago, Illinois 60607
Telephone: +1 312-793-4792, TTY: +1 800-526-5812

Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)
N.B. Stakeholder Subcommittee
Monday, January 26, 2026, | 3:00 P.M. to 4:30 PM

Members Present

Janeth Barba(Proxy Roxana Menendez)	Family Service Association of Greater Elgin Area
Michelle Churchey-Mims	Community Behavioral Healthcare Association (CBHA)
Regina Crider	Family Advocate
Stephanie Duckworth	Centerstone of Illinois
Michele Esser	Lake County Health Department
Michelle Herron	Community and Residential Services Authority
Amelia Joseph	Pillars Community Health
Laura Kane	Marshmallow's HOPE Nonprofit Organization
Jeff Lata	DuPage County Health Department
Dee Ann Ryan	Family Advocate
Diana Taylor Meneses	Children's Home Association of Illinois

Members Absent

Stephanie Barisch	Center for Youth and Family Solutions
Jud DeLoss	Illinois Association for Behavioral Health (IABH)
Andy Durbin	Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)
Angie Hampton	Egyptian Health Department
Jason Keeler	Allendale Association
Emily Miller	Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF)
Michael Naylor	University of Illinois at Chicago

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call of Committee Members** (Quorum achieved. Meeting initiated at 3:02 pm)
- III. Meeting Minutes** (10/27/25 and 12/8/25 meeting minute corrections were approved)
- IV. Introduction of HFS Staff** (No new HFS staff were present)
- V. HFS Presentation:**
 1. Implementation Update
 1. Starting in January 2026, HFS has moved away from matching referrals based on CCSO staffing capacity. Going forward, each CCSO and MCO will receive its full list of youth, including all new referrals and redeterminations for NB Class Members identified within their DSAs.
 - a. HFS has identified several CCSOs that are working to staff up to be



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able to provide services.

- HFS considers full staffing as having an adequate number of Tier 1 and Tier 2 care coordinators in place to provide care coordination and support services to all interested families on a non-decline basis and without a waitlist.
 - NB Subcommittee members can locate general CCSO staffing information within the quarterly report.
 - b. CCSOs that do not have adequate staff remain responsible for supporting their eligible clients.
 - HFS has requested that the CCSOs continue to reach out to those families and make referrals to other Pathways to Success services as they become available. The CCSO is expected to update and maintain the client's IM+CANS and continue to contact these families during this process to initiate care coordination services once care coordinator staff become available.
 - HFS will be releasing guidance and a specific form to be used by CCSOs to help families identify which Pathways to Success services are available to them to facilitate the referral process.
 - HFS is working diligently to identify and onboard additional Pathways service providers and concisely report which DSAs have providers available and ready to provide services.
 - 2. HFS meets regularly with CCSOs and other stakeholders to ensure that we provide updates and allow for adequate input and feedback.
 - a. HFS continues to meet with each of the CCSOs individually on a monthly basis to troubleshoot identified issues and has reinstated the monthly all CCSO Office Hours meetings.
 - b. HFS staff attended the CBHA-facilitated Office Hour meetings to discuss program changes, answer questions, and gather feedback.
 - 3. HFS is working through the RFQ process to identify suitable CCSOs to cover DSAs 7 and DSAs 27, 28, and 29a.
2. Strategies to improve youth/family engagement in the Pathways to Success program.
- 1. Identifying and referring clients who are high utilizers of Crisis Services for Pathways services.
 - a. At this time, the IM-CAT tool does provide a substantial amount of



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information to begin the process of initiating the IM+CANS. HFS encourages each CCSO to work internally to identify any youth and families with high utilization of crisis services, to follow up with them to ensure that:

- An IM+CANS is completed that meets the Decisional Support Criteria; and
 - The IM+CANS is submitted to the Bureau for review and approval for Pathways services.
- b. HFS is working with the IM+CANS Workgroup to provide meaningful IM+CANS documentation guidance to be released to providers in the near future.

VI. 2026 Meeting Schedule

1. The [2026 NB Subcommittee Meeting schedule](#) has been posted on the NB Subcommittee webpage.

VII. Public Comment

1. Would the Bureau of Behavioral Health consider creating an expedited manual approval and referral process for youth in crisis who may be appropriate for Pathways services?

HFS response:

HFS is not able to create a secondary manual process at this time.

VIII. Additional Business: Old & New

A. Items for future discussion

1. Engagement strategies
2. Marketing Strategies

B. HFS Announcements

IX. Adjournment (Meeting ended at 4:18 pm)
