

201 South Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, Illinois 62763-0002

Telephone: (217) 782-1200  
TTY: (800) 526-5812

**Public Meeting Notice**  
**Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)**  
**Community Integration Subcommittee**  
Virtual WebEx Meeting  
Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting will be held using WebEx.**

- **To join by link:** Please register in advance of the meeting & join the WebEx Meeting a few minutes before the meeting starts. Please use the following meeting link to register:
  - <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m2453975a5657877959a9851066e4f57d>
  - During this brief registration your (name and email) will be required.
  - Once registered, WebEx will provide you access to the meeting link.
- **To join by phone:**
  - +1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)
  - +1-415-655-0002 US Toll
- **Meeting Number (Access Code):** 2464 900 2298
- **Meeting password:** dyPkDp7M76m

## **Agenda**

- I. **Call to order**
- II. **Roll call of committee members**
- III. **Introduction of HFS staff**
- IV. **Review and approval of meeting minutes**
- V. **Public comments**
- VI. **Overview and timeline for compiling subcommittee recommendations**
- VII. **Home and community-based services for Illinois's immigrant eligibility groups**
- VIII. **Money Follows the Person (MFP) update**
- IX. **Medicaid community-based behavioral health service array**
- X. **Additional Business: Old & New**
  - A. Items for future discussion
- XI. **Wrap up/action items**
- XII. **Adjournment**

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HFS is committed to ensuring that this MAC Community Integration Subcommittee session meets the disability access needs of all participants. Please contact [Gabriela.M.Moroney@illinois.gov](mailto:Gabriela.M.Moroney@illinois.gov) with any disability access requests as early as possible. **Please use the following subject line in your email: Request for MAC Community Integration Disability Support on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Should you experience access issues or technical difficulties *during* the meeting, please contact Melishia Bansa at 773.520.1919 or [Melishia.Bansa@illinois.gov](mailto:Melishia.Bansa@illinois.gov).

### WebEx Tips

- Closed Captioning will be available during the meeting
- We strongly suggest using the WebEx link to attend the meeting so that you will have full functionality and capabilities during the meeting.
- You may use your computer's audio or the phone option for sound; in our experience the "Call me" option has the best sound quality.
- If you are calling-in and not using the WebEx link, please email [Susana.Marchan-Ochoa@illinois.gov](mailto:Susana.Marchan-Ochoa@illinois.gov) and cc [Melishia.Bansa@illinois.gov](mailto:Melishia.Bansa@illinois.gov).

Please use the following subject line in your email: ***Request for MAC Attendee Support on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*** You will then receive any last-minute meeting materials if applicable.

- Individuals participating through WebEx may use the "chat" function to communicate with the meeting host and/or co-host.

### To Provide Public Comments, You Must Register in Advance As follows:

- To speak during the meeting, interested parties must email request to provide comments to [Gabriela.M.Moroney@illinois.gov](mailto:Gabriela.M.Moroney@illinois.gov) **by no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.** Please cc [Melishia.Bansa@illinois.gov](mailto:Melishia.Bansa@illinois.gov).
- Please title you email correspondence with the following statement in the subject line: ***Request to Provide MAC Community Integration Subcommittee Public Comment on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.***
- All public speakers must provide their name, title, organization name, email address and contact number when signing up to speak.
- **Speaker Requirements During the Meeting:** The Department will try to accommodate as many requests as possible, however there is limited availability for public comments. Comments must be short in length. At the Department's discretion and based upon the public comment time allotted, each speaker will be given less than 3 minutes to provide comments during the meeting.
- Speakers on the same subject are encouraged to collaborate and have a single spokesperson, if possible.
- Once your request has been reviewed, you will receive a confirmation email from Gabriela Moroney.
- Registrants will be provided with details of how to join the meeting to provide comments by **5:00pm on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

### Regarding the Submission of Written Comments:

- Additionally, interested parties may also provide written comments to the Department in lieu of speaking during the meeting.
- Comments will be read into to record by Chair or administrative personnel.
- **Comment Requirements:** Comments must be short in length and **must not** exceed 3 minutes when read during the meeting.
- Please email request to provide written comments to [Gabriela.M.Moroney@illinois.gov](mailto:Gabriela.M.Moroney@illinois.gov) **no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**
- Please title your email correspondence with the following statement in the subject line: ***Request to Provide MAC Community Integration Subcommittee Written Comment on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.***

**Postponing the WebEx Meeting:**

- If in the event of any technical errors with the Virtual WebEx platform that could impede upon the virtual operations of the meeting experience, the meeting will be postponed until further notice.
- Registered Attendees will receive an email notification informing them the meeting has been postponed until further notice.
- Registered Attendees will receive an email notification regarding the new date of the rescheduled meeting.

This notice is available at: [2022 MAC and Subcommittee Meeting Notice | HFS \(illinois.gov\)](#)

201 South Grand Ave. East  
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**Telephone:** 1-217-782-1200  
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**Medicaid Advisory Committee**  
**Community Integration (CI) Subcommittee**  
**WebEx Meeting DRAFT Minutes**  
**March 3, 2022, 3-5 PM**

**CI Subcommittee Members**

**Present**

Amber Smock (Chair), Access  
Living  
Jessie Beebe, AIDS Foundation of  
Chicago  
Kathy Carmody, Institute on  
Public Policy for People with  
Disabilities  
Sydney Edmond, Illinois Public  
Health Institute  
Maria 'Carmen' Gonzalez DJangi,  
Metropolitan Family Services  
Amie Lulinski, The Arc of Illinois  
Ann Lundy, Access Community  
Health Network  
Jodi Mahoney, North Central  
Behavioral Health Systems  
Missy Munday, Cornerstone  
Services  
Marsha Nelson, Shawnee Health  
Service  
Mark Stutrud, Lutheran Social  
Services of Illinois  
Ashley Warren, NAMI Chicago  
Greg Will, SEIU Healthcare  
Illinois-Indiana

**Department of Healthcare and  
Family Services (HFS) Staff  
Present**

Melishia Bansa  
Arvind Goyal, MD  
Susana Marchan-Ochoa  
Kim McCullough

Cynthia Mester  
Robin Morgan  
Gabriela Moroney  
Lauren Tomko  
Pamela Winsel

**Other State Staff Present**

Meg Cooch, Department of  
Human Services (DHS)  
Division of Developmental  
Disabilities (DDD)  
Amy Lulich, Department on Aging  
(Aging)  
Lora McCurdy, Aging  
Kimberly Mercer-Schleider,  
Illinois Council on  
Developmental Disabilities  
Rahnee Patrick, Director, DHS  
Division of Rehabilitation  
Services  
Carrie Wilcox, DHS Division of  
Mental Health

**Public Attendees**

Randa Abdelrahim  
Yesica Alvarez  
Sherie Arriazola Martinez  
L. Marie Asad  
Lore Baker  
Dani Brazee  
Cassandra Broadway  
Barb Cohen  
Celia Corona  
Laurinda Dodgen  
David Esposito

Kristen Feld  
Leticia Galvez  
Chante Gamby  
Dawn Gay  
Antoine Givens  
Michael Grice  
Gretchen Grieser  
Gail Hamilton  
Jill Hayden  
Dave Hurter  
Andrea Kindseth  
Mike Maginn  
Sarah McCoy  
Ryan McGraw  
Kira Meskin  
Angel Miles  
Emily Miller  
Nica Nuestro  
San O  
Shqipe Osmani  
Stephanie Peden-Fox  
Donna Peek  
Sharon Pittman  
Shelly Richardson  
Andrea Rizor  
Margaretta Ross-Senyah  
Michael Roszyk  
Marina Salman  
Heather Souba  
Angela Stewart  
Stella Van Dan Eeden  
Kaoru Watanabe  
Nana Wiafe-Gyambrah

- I. **Call to Order** – Amber Smock, chairperson of the subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.
- II. **Review and approval of meeting minutes from November 4, 2021**— Amie Lulinski made a correction to the draft meeting minutes, which were then approved by the subcommittee.
- III. **Public Comment** – Several members of the public offered comment to the subcommittee: Randa Abdelrahim, Michael Grice, Gail Hamilton, Donna Peek, Celia Corona, Cassandra Broadway, and Angela Stewart. Comments conveyed issues and recommendations related to home and community-based services (HCBS) for individuals with disabilities, including:
  - Lack of awareness among unpaid caregivers about professional/funded services and supports, often along cultural and religious lines.
  - Importance of communication between managed care organizations and service providers regarding home service plan.
  - Wage stagnation and high rates of employee turnover for home health workers.Additional public comment was received in written format from Marina Salman and Randa Abdelrahim regarding the experience of immigrants in accessing services; it is attached as an appendix to these minutes.
- IV. **Discussion of Illinois’s HCBS American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan** – Pam Winsel from HFS reviewed and responded to subcommittee member questions about the state’s HCBS ARPA spending plan, for which the state has received conditional approval. Final approval is contingent upon the State meeting quarterly reporting requirements. The approval can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/ILFY2022Q2ConditionalApproval.pdf> .
- V. **Discussion of top Illinois HCBS workforce issues – Subcommittee members engaged** in discussion about Illinois HCBS workforce issues. Providers’ ability to compete with wages in other sectors was a central theme. Multiple members expressed appreciation for the individuals making public comment.
- VI. **Review proposed agendas for May and July meetings** – Chairperson Smock led the committee in a discussion of agenda items for the next two meetings. Consensus was established to address community mental health services, Money Follows the Person, and HCBS for immigrant groups in the May meeting.
- IX. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

## Appendix

### Medicaid Advisory Committee = Community Integration Subcommittee Public Comment 3/3/2022 Arab Americans and Immigrant Communities

Hello,

We would like to submit comments for the Medicaid Advisory Committee, Community Integration Subcommittee Meeting.

Often immigrants with disabilities experience structural and cultural barriers in accessing meaningful services. We think that service delivery can be enhanced for Arab Americans, and other immigrants, through the following:

1. Establish engagement and partnership between State and local governments with organizations serving Arab Americans and immigrant communities, including:
  - a. Provide education and training on HCBS to all stakeholders, including consumers, religious institutions, social service & healthcare providers, law and immigration offices
  - b. Provide training in how to assess and identify needs for when a person is in need of HCBS
  - c. Provide trainings to Arab-focused organizations in how to streamline services for PWDS AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Cultural-sensitivity and compassionate training for HCBS workers on how to communicate and interact Arab consumers and their families (i.e. PA, homemakers)

Offer and support ongoing education on HCBS services and resources to consumers using relevant languages. For example, creating accessible information that explains how to obtain services such as assistive devices from medical supplies agencies and home modifications would support self dependency and allow the consumer to explore the existing services. Consumers can also learn more about transportation, how to use Pace Paratransit, and connect consumers to agencies who can create accessible vehicles.

Recruit and train more Arabic or bilingual speaking workers

NOTE: Translator services and apps can help but it is not as effective in terms of developing and sustaining quality communication and social interaction

Expand the waiver to include services for future planning for aging caregivers.

Thank you,

Marina Salman  
Access Living Chicago  
[msalman@accessliving.org](mailto:msalman@accessliving.org)

Randa Abdelrahim  
University of Illinois chicago  
[rabel9@uic.edu](mailto:rabel9@uic.edu)