November 2, 2023

Medical Care Advisory Committees (MCACs) and Beneficiary Engagement

Audrey Nuamah



Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission





Overview

- Background on MCACs ٠
- Key findings •
- Policy options •
- Next steps •





Background on MCACs

- Federal regulations require every state to have a MCAC to advise the state Medicaid agency (42 CFR 431.12)
- CMS released a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would change federal MCAC rules:
 - Rename MCACs to Medicaid Advisory Committees (MACs);
 - Expand the scope of topics to be addressed outside of health and medical care services;
 - Establish Beneficiary Advisory Groups (BAGs); and
 - Require state agencies to publicly post information related to MAC and BAG activities

Key Findings

States Seek More Guidance on Effectively Engaging Beneficiaries

• State resource challenges limit additional engagement efforts

MACPAC

- Beneficiaries seek more technical assistance from state Medicaid agencies to engage in MCAC discussions
- State Medicaid officials had questions about the use of financial incentives
- The NPRM suggests more guidance will be released with best practices for meaningful beneficiary engagement

Diverse Beneficiary Representation is Lacking

MACPAC

- Federal rules require beneficiary membership, but do not specifically speak to the diversity of those beneficiaries
- The majority of states explicitly require beneficiary representation or consumer group representation
- Few states require representation from historically marginalized groups
- The NPRM encourages states to consider diverse representation in their recruitment efforts, but does not mandate it

Beneficiary Recruitment is Challenging

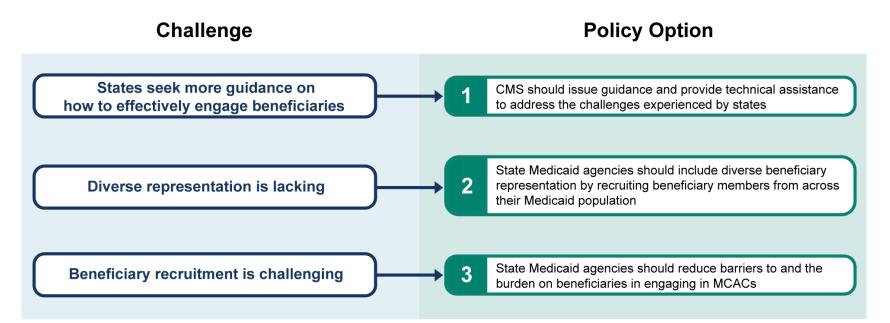
MACPAC

- State Medicaid agencies note difficulties in finding beneficiaries to participate in MCACs
- State recruitment strategies include web advertising, recruiting beneficiaries who are active in other committees, and working with community-based organizations
- Some interviewees cited that applications can be long, complex, and overly formal, and can deter beneficiaries from applying
- The NPRM indicates additional guidance on recruitment strategies is forthcoming

Policy Options



Policy Options



Policy Option 1: Issue CMS Guidance

- CMS should issue guidance and provide technical assistance to address the challenges experienced by states in:
 - Recruiting beneficiary MCAC participants;
 - Facilitating beneficiary engagement in MCAC meetings; and
 - Providing financial arrangements to facilitate beneficiary participation in MCACs
- Rationale:

MACPAC

 States described a need for specific guidance and technical assistance from CMS about how to leverage MCACs to obtain beneficiary input to inform their program policies and operations

Policy Option 2: Include Diverse Beneficiary Representation

- In implementing requirements in 42 CFR § 431.12(d)(2) that MCAC membership include beneficiaries, state Medicaid agencies should include diverse beneficiary representation by recruiting beneficiary members from across their Medicaid population, including those from historically marginalized communities
- Rationale:

MACPAC

 Engaging beneficiaries from historically marginalized backgrounds allows them to share their unique experiences and concerns

Policy Option 3: Reduce Beneficiary Burden

- In implementing requirements in 42 CFR § 431.12(e) to further the participation of beneficiary members, state Medicaid agencies should reduce barriers to and the burden on beneficiaries in engaging in MCACs by:
 - Streamlining application requirements and processes; and
 - Offering support to facilitate beneficiary participation in MCAC proceedings
- Rationale:

MACPAC

 Addressing barriers and providing beneficiaries with additional assistance may help to facilitate their MCAC participation

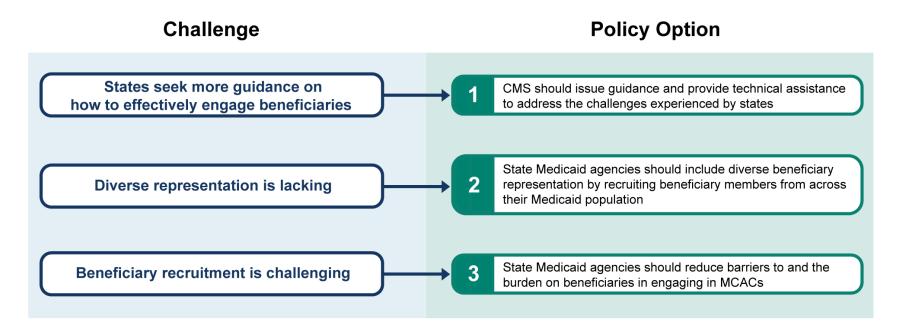


Next Steps

- Commission discussion and feedback on policy options
- Return with draft chapter for March report to Congress



Policy Options for Discussion



November 2, 2023

Medical Care Advisory Committees (MCACs) and Beneficiary Engagement

Audrey Nuamah



Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

