



**Medical Care Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting**

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, January 8, 2025	<b>Time:</b> 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
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**Location: Agency for Health Care Administration Headquarters**

2727 Mahan Drive  
 Tallahassee, FL 32308  
 Conference Room A – C  
 Microsoft Teams

**Attendance**

<b>Committee Members</b>			
<b>Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)</b>		<b>Department of Children and Families (DCF)</b>	
	Jason Weida, Secretary, AHCA		Shevaun Harris, Secretary, DCF
✓	Brian Meyer AHCA, Deputy Secretary, Medicaid		Casey Penn Assistant Secretary, DCF
		T	Bridget Royster (on behalf of DCF)
<b>Department of Health (DOH)</b>		<b>Associations &amp; Beneficiaries</b>	
	Joseph A. Ladapo, M.D., PhD., Surgeon General		Diane Sanders-Cepeda, D.O., C.M.D., Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
T	Andrea Gary, Director, CMS Plan Administration	T	Michael Lawton, Florida Association of Health Plans
<b>Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)</b>			Stanley Whittaker, MSN, ARNP, Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners
	Taylor Hatch, Director of APD	T	Victoria Zepp, Team 180 Consulting – Samantha Benvenisty
	Lorena Fulcher, Chief of Consumer Supports		David Mica, Jr., Florida Hospital Association
✓	Katie Hinrichs, Operations Program Coordinator		
<b>Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA)</b>			Michael Lockwood, Beneficiary
T	Ashley Apthorp, Director of Statewide Community-Based Services		
	Michelle Branham, Secretary of DOEA		
<b>Presenters</b>			



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	Name	Agency, Division, Title
✓	Brian Meyer	AHCA, Deputy Secretary, Medicaid
✓	Ann Dalton	AHCA, Chief of Medicaid Policy
✓ = Present for the Meeting; T = Attended Remotely		

## Meeting Minutes

**Documents Distributed:**

- MCAC PowerPoint Presentation

**Opening Remarks**

*Brian Meyer*

Brian Meyer, Deputy Secretary for Medicaid (AHCA or Agency), called the January 8, 2025, Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) meeting to order. Mr. Meyer welcomed all in attendance and began introductions with Agency personnel. He then thanked the committee members and members of the public. Mr. Meyer proceeded to remind the audience of the blackout period and the meeting logistics. Mr. Meyer introduced Mary Lescher to proceed with the Roll Call.

**Roll Call**

*Mary Lescher*

Mary Lescher proceeded with the roll call and had the members or their delegate introduce themselves. Following the roll call, Mr. Meyer began the presentation.

**1115 Live Healthy**

*Ann Dalton/  
Brian Meyer*

Mr. Meyer and Ann Dalton provided the presentation on Florida’s new Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration, created under the “Live Healthy Act” (SB7016), which was enacted on March 22, 2024. The goal of this initiative was to strengthen Florida’s healthcare workforce, improve access to care, and promote innovation for a better, more patient-focused healthcare system. To achieve these goals, Florida requested federal approval to implement key parts of the Act. Mr. Meyer explained the public notice and comment process that took place before submitting the proposal to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Mrs. Dalton shared details about the public input period, December 22, 2024, to January 25, 2025. Public meetings are also to be held on January 8 in Tallahassee and January 10 in Orlando to gather feedback and ensure transparency.

The proposed demonstration program focused on four main initiatives:

1. TEACH (Training, Education, and Clinics in Health) Funding Program: Provided scholarships, stipends, and clinical training for healthcare professionals to address workforce shortages.
2. FRAME (Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education) Program: Reimbursed medical education expenses for eligible healthcare professionals.
3. Dental Student Loan Repayment Program: Offered loan repayment assistance to dental professionals in underserved areas.



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4. FIRST (Florida Funding Initiative for Recruitment, Sustainment, and Training of Nurses) Program: Helped hospitals expand their capacity to train nursing professionals.

Mr. Meyer emphasized the program's main goals: improving access to care, enhancing quality, and addressing the unique needs of Florida's elderly and children with complex medical conditions. Ann Dalton added that while the demonstration would not provide direct services to Medicaid enrollees, it would support workforce training programs to build a stronger and more sustainable healthcare system.

Mr. Meyer concluded the presentation and proceeded to the next agenda topic.

**Public Comments**

**Brian Meyer**

Mr. Meyer opened the floor for public comments. Ann Dalton requested to send an email for questions being discussed during the public comment portion.

The following public comments were made:

- Victoria Zepp:
  - Inquired about the mechanism to ensure those in training complete their requirements.
    - Response: Trainees would report annually to the state and meet a requirement of 25 hours per year.
- Michael Lawton:
  - Inquired about outreach efforts and how communication would ensure the word gets out.
    - Response: Outreach and communication strategies will be actively engaged.
- Stanely Whittaker:
  - Stated the need for clinics to be certified and asked if there was any way to print specific resources.
    - Response: A link to the requested resources would be provided. As a follow up, Mr. Whittaker was sent the external link to the website.
- Maurine George:
  - Inquired if there is a way to obtain a list of teaching hospitals and highlighted the need for clarity on outreach efforts.
    - Response: Ms. George was provided with the list of teaching hospitals.
- Lindy Kennedy:
  - Commended the agency for their efforts and dedication.
- Paul Robinson:
  - Thanked AHCA for its focus on the pediatric workforce and the progress being made.
- Dr. Alma Littles:
  - Expressed gratitude to legislators and the Department of Health for implementing the FRAME program.
- Stephanie Corner:
  - Noted that the FRAME program is seen as an effective way for medical professionals to pay off student loans.
- Ben Browning:
  - Expressed appreciation for the initiative and extended thanks to the agency.
- Laura Johnson:
  - Stated that she will submit her comments in writing for further review.
- Jennifer Johnson:



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- Thanked the legislature and the agency, suggesting the inclusion of licensed clinical social workers in program considerations.

Mr. Meyer concluded the public comment portion of the meeting and transitioned to closing remarks.

**Closing Remarks**

***Brian Meyer***

Brian Meyer encouraged committee members and members of the public to send their questions or agenda topic recommendations to Kissa Smith in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Medicaid Operations and Procurement, at the following email address: [kissa.smith@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:kissa.smith@ahca.myflorida.com)

**Adjourn**

***Brian Meyer***

Mr. Meyer thanked the Committee members and members of the public for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM.