GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Health Care Finance

DHCF Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

August 20, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

DHCF and Guest Attendees

In addition to the BAC members, the following DHCF staff and guest presenters attended the meeting:

- Melisa Byrd, DHCF
- Becky Normile, DHCF
- Kevin O'Donnell, DHCF
- Eugene Simms, DHCF
- Kim Hicks, DHCF

Welcome and Introductions

Becky Normile reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting logistics.

DHCF Updates

Melisa Byrd gave updates about BAC and other DHCF activities.

The BAC talked about electing a BAC Chair and Vice Chair. Melisa explained that the Chair and Vice Chair might help DHCF plan meeting topics and help run the BAC meetings. The BAC can decide exactly what these roles should do. DHCF will follow-up after the meeting to poll BAC members to see if they want to elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

Medicaid Beneficiary Responsibilities in Preventing Fraud and Abuse

Kevin O'Donnell provided an overview of a draft rule on fraud, waste, and abuse and beneficiaries' roles and responsibilities. The purpose is to provide clarity on beneficiary roles and responsibilities related to program integrity.

BAC members raised several questions and concerns:

- Beneficiaries with intellectual and developmental disabilities or cognitive impairments may not realize they are participating in fraud.
    - DHCF explained that intent matters. If a beneficiary is coerced or misled by a provider, that is considered provider fraud. If a beneficiary makes a good faith mistake, it is not fraud. DHCF agreed to consider how to better incorporate beneficiary protections and reaffirm the intent of the rule.

- BAC members emphasized the need for provider oversight, such as requiring home health providers to sign-in when providing services in a home. They also would like DHCF to focus on investigating provider fraud.
    - DHCF explained it investigates providers far more frequently than beneficiaries. DHCF has implemented program changes over the past 10 years to stop providers from committing fraud. DHCF uses tools to prevent and identify fraud among providers, such as using EVV for home health services, and analyzing billing data. DHCF refers cases of provider fraud to law enforcement so they can investigate and take action.
- BAC members asked how common fraud is among beneficiaries
    - DHCF explained that beneficiary fraud is rare, and most fraud cases involve providers. DHCF is drafting the rule focused on beneficiary roles and responsibilities so it can respond if beneficiary fraud occurs.

Long-Term Care Overview

Due to running out of time, DHCF did not present the long-term care overview. DHCF will share information on long-term care at an upcoming BAC meeting.

Next BAC Meeting

Becky shared the date and time for the next BAC office hours (September 17, 2026, from 6:00 – 7:00pm), which will provide an overview of rulemaking.