

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Maternal Health Advisory Group

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Tuesday, July 15th, 2025

Meeting Summary

<p>Managed Care & Maternal Health Engagement</p> <p><i>See slides 5-10</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed care is a model that delivers Medicaid benefits and services to beneficiaries that aims to maximize quality and efficiency. • 85% of DC Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in one of 4 Managed Care Plans (MCPs) in the District: AmeriHealth Caritas, Wellpoint, MedStar Family Choice, and Health Services for Children with Special Needs. • Maternal health initiatives within managed care include activities to increase early participation in prenatal care and improve birth outcomes.
<p>AmeriHealth & Mamatoto Village: A Collaborative Approach</p> <p><i>See slides 11-22</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mamatoto Village supports pregnant women to engage in care early and avoid adverse birth outcomes. They connect mothers to perinatal education, care coordination, and social support through a dedicated care team. • AmeriHealth DC partners with Mamatoto Village to offer doula care, home visits, wellness coaching, and resource connections. • AmeriHealth DC and Mamatoto Village staff meet regularly to share updates, successes, exchange data on enrollees, and address challenges and barriers. • Challenges remain with capacity limitations and avoiding duplication.
<p>Breakout Groups</p>	<p>Group #1: Operations and Partnerships with Managed Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants identified a general lack of clarity around enrollment and billing when working with the MCPs, particularly for doulas. • One opportunity for improvement identified included assigning a dedicated point person to assist doulas with enrollment and billing with MCPs. • Participants discussed practices MCPs in MD and VA employ in working with doulas. <p>Group #2: Reimbursement from Managed Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low reimbursement rates were cited as a major challenge, especially for birth centers and doulas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants suggested that there is a need for expanded maternity services, including lactation and preconception care services. • The timeline for enrolling with the MCPs was also highlighted as a challenge to timely reimbursement. • Many providers who offer services similar to Mamatoto Village are seeking funding arrangements outside of traditional fee-for-service Medicaid payment arrangements, including grants and contracts. <p>Group #3: Opportunities for Innovation in Managed Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants highlighted the role of data sharing to support preventative efforts and enhance transparency between MCPs and providers. • A participant highlighted Black Women Thriving East of the River on cancer patient navigation and workforce development within the community, which could be a model for maternal health. • The group discussed the need for more culturally competent community organizations to reach beneficiaries, due to limited capacity and high demand. • Community of Hope highlighted their care coordination services and identified an opportunity to pursue reimbursement for care coordinators and navigators to increase access to quality care for beneficiaries. • Childcare for birthing parents during labor or when hospitalized for an extended period of time was identified as a barrier to care.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC Health is looking for informant interviews for the District Maternal Health Strategic Plan; contact Tiffany Gray (tiffany.gray3@dc.gov) if interested. • The August Maternal Health Advisory Group meeting is <u>cancelled</u>. • Next meeting is on September 16th from 11am-12:15pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Topic</u>: Patient Safety • Contact dhcf.maternalhealth@dc.gov with questions; meeting materials are posted on https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/transforming-maternal-health