



# **Integrated Care for Dually Eligible Beneficiaries and Medicaid HCBS Rebalancing: An Update from MACPAC**

**Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission**

Kirstin Blom and Asmaa Albaroudi

May 23, 2022

[www.macpac.gov](http://www.macpac.gov)

 @macpacgov

# Overview of MACPAC

- Non-partisan legislative branch agency
- Provides policy and data analysis
- Makes recommendations to Congress, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the states on a wide array of issues affecting Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- U.S. Comptroller General appoints MACPAC's 17 commissioners
  - come from diverse regions across the United States
  - bring broad expertise and a wide range of perspectives on Medicaid and CHIP

# Overview of MACPAC, continued

- Holds public meetings, regularly consults with state officials, congressional and executive branch staff, beneficiaries, health care providers, researchers, and policy experts
- Authorizing statute requires the Commission to submit reports to Congress by March 15 and June 15 of each year

# Overview of MACPAC's Work in Areas of Policy Affecting Dually Eligible and LTSS

- Work on policies affecting dually eligible beneficiaries has focused on integrated care
  - increasing enrollment in integrated models
  - making integrated models more widely available
  - increasing the level of integration in existing models
- Work on policies affecting Medicaid long-term services and supports (LTSS), including home- and community-based services (HCBS), has focused on barriers to rebalancing
  - workforce shortage
  - eligibility
  - design of the Medicaid HCBS benefit

# MACPAC Addressed Dually Eligible Beneficiaries in June 2022 Report to Congress

- Recommendation requiring all states to develop an integrated care strategy, with federal assistance in the form of additional funding
- Key components of an integrated strategy
  - Integration approach, eligibility and benefits, enrollment strategy, beneficiary protections and input, data analytics, and quality measurement
- Informed by roundtable with states on barriers they face in moving toward more integrated coverage for dually eligible beneficiaries and what role federal support could play

# MACPAC Has Also Commented on Rulemaking Affecting Dually Eligible Beneficiaries

- Generally supported provisions to promote integration of care by applying features of the Medicare-Medicaid plans (MMPs) to Medicare Advantage dual eligible special needs plans (D-SNPs)
- Urged CMS to look for ways to promote integration beyond D-SNPs with exclusively aligned enrollment
- Outlined concerns about conversion of MMPs to D-SNPs such as loss of beneficiary supports from dedicated ombudsman and individualized benefits counseling as well as potential burden on states and beneficiaries

# Other Areas of Interest Regarding Dually Eligible Beneficiaries

- Beneficiary experience in integrated care
- MMP conversion to integrated D-SNPs and implications of that change for states and beneficiaries

# Rebalancing

- Rebalancing LTSS away from institutional care and toward HCBS has been a federal and state goal for decades
- One common measure of rebalancing is the proportion of LTSS spending that is for HCBS
  - Medicaid programs have spent more on HCBS than institutional services since fiscal year (FY) 2013
- Some barriers to rebalancing include the structural bias in the Medicaid statute toward institutions, and, LTSS workforce shortages



# Redesigning the Medicaid HCBS Benefit

- **Goal for roundtable:** Support diversion from institutions and simplify administrative complexity
- **Roundtable takeaways:** Consider a tiered model that includes a core HCBS benefit; person-centeredness and equitable access to services are key; and capacity discussions are essential in improving access to HCBS
- **Considerations:** Services included in a core HCBS benefit; administration and monitoring; and eligibility

# Workforce Shortage

- MACPAC recently published work on state efforts to address Medicaid HCBS workforce shortages
- In 2020, the median hourly wage was roughly \$13 an hour for home health and personal care aides
- Policies that could address workforce challenges
  - Wage pass-through laws and providing benefits (e.g., health insurance, etc.)
  - Improved training programs and career lattices
  - Pipeline programs, publicity campaigns, peer-matching programs, etc.

# MACPAC Resources on Dually Eligible Beneficiaries and LTSS

- June 2022 Report to Congress – forthcoming
- March 2022 Presentation: [Requiring States to Develop an Integrated Care Strategy for Dually Eligible Beneficiaries: Review of Draft Chapter and Recommendation for the June Report](#)
- March 2022 Issue Brief: [State Efforts to Address Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services Workforce Shortages](#)
- March 2022 Presentation: [Considerations in Redesigning the Home- and Community-based Services Benefit](#)

# Keeping in Touch with MACPAC

- Join our mailing list:
  - <https://www.macpac.gov/join-our-mailing-list/>
- Follow us on Twitter @macpacgov or LinkedIn
- Attend our meetings and provide public comments
  - <https://www.macpac.gov/meetings/>
- Share data, experiences, and concerns with staff
  - Kirstin Blom: [kirstin.blom@macpac.gov](mailto:kirstin.blom@macpac.gov)
  - Asmaa Albaroudi: [asmaa.albaroudi@macpac.gov](mailto:asmaa.albaroudi@macpac.gov)



# **Integrated Care for Dually Eligible Beneficiaries and Medicaid HCBS Rebalancing: An Update from MACPAC**

**Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission**

Kirstin Blom and Asmaa Albaroudi

May 23, 2022

