

January 21, 2026 BHP Child/Adolescent Quality, Access & Policy Committee Zoom Meeting

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting began with preparations for live coverage and introductions of co-hosts before reviewing key system challenges and strengths in behavioral health services. The committee discussed Medicaid requirements, data collection limitations, and service access issues, particularly for children, while examining the 2023 report's findings on youth demographics and system challenges. The group planned future activities including a baseline report from state agencies, alternative data collection approaches, and upcoming leadership elections, while emphasizing the need for a more cohesive and collaborative planning process.

Next steps

- [Carelon and relevant state partners: Present a baseline report in February, including an overview of ASO services, youth membership demographics, utilization of behavioral health services, analysis of racial disparities, types of accessed services, ED utilization, inpatient/psychiatric care, Solnit and state hospital utilization, PRTF utilization, quality improvement initiatives, autism services, costs, and system challenges, with particular focus on data from the 2024 annual report if available.](#)
- [Carelon/state partners: Investigate and report back on the ability to identify and report on children in foster care within the Medicaid population, as requested by Maureen O'Neil Davis.](#)
- [Dr. Stephney Springer \(DSC\) : Take back to other state partners the request for more information/education on EPSDT \(Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment\) requirements and their application to children's behavioral health, and report on which ASO or agency can best provide this information.](#)
- [CFAC members: Begin planning for the 11th annual iCAN conference 2026, including identifying the theme and messaging.](#)
- [CFAC: Send out sponsorship forms early for the 2026 conference to collect funding.](#)
- [Co-Chairs Hector Glynn and Melissa Green: Work out the next couple of steps based on today's conversation and send out a roadmap to the group before the February meeting.](#)
- [Carelon/state partners: Consider how to provide more real-time or different types of data \(beyond claims/authorizations\) to better capture wait times, access, and system throughput, as discussed by Liz Sitler and others.](#)

Summary

System Challenges and EPSDT Review- EPSDT Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment

The committee reviewed key system challenges identified in November, including a lack of cohesive system, workforce shortages, insufficient capacity, and data limitations. They discussed strengths such as new urgent crisis centers and evidence-based practices. Co-Chairs Melissa Green and Hector Glynn met with state partners to present a summary and outline requests for the coming year, including information on EPSDT requirements. The group agreed to focus on setting a baseline in February by reviewing last year's annual report from state partners, which covered 87 pages of data relevant to the committee's work. Bernard explained that EPSDT is a specific Medicaid requirement for children that involves surveillance, screening, and treatment systems.

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment>

Behavioral Health Workforce Solutions

The group discussed the need for a cohesive system to address workforce shortages and capacity issues in behavioral health services. Carelon, as the Behavioral Health ASO, was identified as having access to Medicaid-only data and has conducted presentations on children and youth in various clinical settings. The importance of hearing from providers and collecting their data was emphasized. The discussion also touched on the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program, which was noted to fall more under the medical ASO's purview than the behavioral health ASO.

Mental Health Service Access Challenges

The group discussed challenges with accessing mental health services, particularly for children with Medicaid coverage. Erika Sharillo (Carelon) explained that while many services are covered under Medicaid, there are still waitlists and delays in accessing care. Liz Sitler (OCA) raised concerns about the timeliness of data collection and the need for more current information on waitlists and service gaps. The group agreed to further discuss strategies for improving service capacity and addressing throughput issues in future meetings.

2023 Carelon Planning Report Review

The committee discussed emerging priorities, including identifying current planning processes, diagnosing breakdowns, and ensuring a more inclusive and collaborative planning process. They reviewed the content of the 2023 report, which covered youth demographics, Medicaid utilization, racial disparities, emergency department visits, inpatient care, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, and system challenges. The group planned to present an overview of Carelon's ASO

services and key findings from the 2023 report in February, with the hope of receiving a similar report in November.

Medicaid Foster Care Data Challenges

The committee discussed the need for a baseline report from state agencies for February, with a focus on Medicaid services for children in foster care. They acknowledged limitations in current data collection methods, particularly for tracking waitlists and service initiation times, and discussed the challenges of obtaining comprehensive data across different insurance providers. The group agreed to consider alternative data collection approaches and to focus on Medicaid-specific requirements for children, while also planning for upcoming CFAC chair elections and the 2026 ICANN conference.