

**STAR KIDS Managed Care Advisory Committee**  
**APPROVED Meeting Minutes – v.3**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting: TEAMS Virtual Meeting – John H. Winters Bldg., 701 W 51st Street, PHR 125, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78751**

**Table 1:** SKMCAAC member attendance at the Tuesday, September 13, 2023 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Dr. Rahel Berhane	X		Dr. Ricardo Mosquera	X	
Mr. Josh Britten	X		Mr. Jose Pereda	X	
Ms. Rosalba Calleros	X		Mr. Blake Smith	X	
Ms. Catherine Carlton, Chair	X		Ms. Elizabeth Tucker	X	
Ms. Terri Carriker, Vice-Chair	X		Ms. Shawnett Viani		X
Ms. Iris Gutierrez	X		Ms. Belinda West		X
Ms. Tara Hopkins		x	Ms. Beanca Williams	X	
Ms. Alice Martinez	X*		Ms. Teresa Ruiz	X	
Dr. Glen Medellin, MD	X				

(\*) joined meeting after Roll Call.

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome, logistical announcement, and roll call**

STAR KIDS Managed Care Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Ms. Catherine Carlton, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, Facilitator, HHSC, announced the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, conducted roll call, and advised the chair a quorum was present for the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2: Consideration of December 6, 2022 Draft meeting minutes**

There were no edits or changes to the December 6, 2022 SKMCAC draft meeting minutes.

**Motion:**

Ms. Catherine Carlton requested a motion to approve the December 6, 2023 SKMCAC draft meeting minutes. The motion was made by Ms. Terri Carriker. Dr. Glenn Medellin seconded the motion. The December 6, 2022 SKMCAC draft meeting minutes were approved as presented by a vote of Twelve (12) Ayes:(Berhane, Britten, Calleros, Carlton, Carriker, Gutierrez, Martinez, Medellin, Mosquera, Perieda, Smith, Tucker, Williams), Zero (0) Nays, Zero (0) Abstain, and Four (4) Absent.

**Agenda Item 3: HHSC updates:**

**a. Transition of SKMCAC – Ms. Michelle Erwin, Deputy Associate Commissioner, MCS, HHSC**

Ms. Catherine Carlton, chair recognized Ms. Michelle Erwin, Deputy Associate Commissioner, MCS, HHSC to provide the SKMCAC Transition update.

Highlights from Ms. Erwin’s presentation:

- SKMCAC was established by law in 2013.
- Under the current statute, the committee will expire on December 31, 2023.
- The review process of the HHSC to determine if there are opportunities with other committees for stakeholder and committee members to remain engaged, such as by

providing public comment at committee meetings, participating as a subject matter expert (SME) at committee meetings, or by applying to become a member through the solicitation process.

- Streamlining and aligning with the Sunset recommendation to align with the statutory expiration of the committee.
- The agency has determined there are other opportunities for the stakeholders and members to remain engaged. Namely, through the State Medicaid Managed Care Advisory Committee (SMMCAC).
- HHSC will work closely with the SMMCAC Chair to ensure a smooth transition, and to include SKMCAC on the agenda at the November SMMCAC meeting.
- HHSC will continue to work with SKMCAC members to address recommendations from the annual report.

**Member Discussion:**

- Ms. Teri Carriker asked how many vacancies there are currently on the SMMCAC.
- Ms. Erwin stated she will follow up with SKMCAC members on the vacancies and categories.
- Multiple SKMCAC members expressed their opinion that the voices of families could be lost in the transition.
- Mr. Josh Britten noted improvements he has seen in the STAR Kids program.

The following provided public comment:

- Ms. Susan Murphree,  
Parent Advocate  
Ms. Murphree asked EC Young to extend the SKMCAC and described her experience at a recent SMMCAC meeting.
- Mr. Jeff Miller (Virtual)  
Disability Rights Texas  
Mr. Miller asked the EC to extend the SKMCAC and expressed his opinion that important voices will be lost in the transition.
- Ms. Adrienne Ryholt (Virtual)  
Disability Rights Texas  
Ms. Ryholt asked the EC to extend the SKMCAC. She stated her observation of the narrowing of Medicaid network participation. She recommended HHSC include more diversity of stakeholders in the charge of the SMMCAC to include those representing children with disabilities.
- Ms. Rona Statman (Virtual)  
Program Director  
Every Child Texas  
Ms. Statman expressed her opposition to HHSC's decision to end the SKMCAC. She expressed her opinion that there will not be a consistent voice to advocate for children with medically complex conditions.

- Ms. Linda Litzinger  
Texas Parent to Parent  
Parent of a medically fragile child  
Ms. Litzinger expressed her opposition to the ending of the SKMCAC. She expressed appreciation for the SKMCAC. She expressed fear that SKMCAC issues will not be addressed in the SMMCAC. She stated that the BHAC created a STAR Kids subcommittee.
- Ms. Cheryl Kubala  
Mother of an MDCP member  
Ms. Kubala expressed her opinion that certain voices will be lost in the transition and her opposition to the decision to end the SKMCAC. She described her experience as a mother of a medically complex child.

### **Public Comment – Oral & Written**

- Ms. Dana Newsmith (Virtual)  
Advocate

### **Public Comment – Written Only**

- Ms. Hazel Canela
- Ms. Christina Maldonado
- Ms. Amber Marin
- Mr. Ronald Marin
- Ms. Concetta Rittgers
- Ms. Karla Auten
- Ms. Barbara Cooper
- Mr. Jeff Carlton
- Ms. Jocalyn Briggs
- Mr. Dennis Borel

After a lengthy discussion of the agency’s plan to sunset the committee and statements from advisory committee members, Ms. Terri Carriker, vice chair made a motion to encourage the agency (HHSC) to exercise its authority to extend SKMCAC for at least an additional two (2) years.

### **Motion:**

Ms. Catherine Carlton moved to encourage the agency (HHSC) to exercise its authority to extend SKMCAC to an additional two (2) years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jose Pereida. The motion passed by a vote of Twelve (12) Approve: (Berhane, Calleros, Carlton, Carriker, Gutierrez, Martinez, Medellin, Mosquera, Perieda, Smith, Tucker, and Williams), zero (0) Disapprove, zero (0) Abstain, and Three (3) Absent.

### **3b. Community First Choice Handbook updates – Ms. Laura Jourdan, Program Specialist VII, Program Policy B, HHSC**

Highlights from Ms. Jourdan’s presentation:

- Community First Choice (CFC) background information.
- CFC Services; Personal Assistance Services (PAS), Habilitation (HAB), and Emergency Response Services (ERS), and support management.
- CFC Services offered to persons not enrolled in 1915(c) waiver: STAR Kids, STAR Health, and STAR+PLUS.

- CFC Eligibility
- Assessment and Authorization
- STAR Kids Handbook Updates for CFC
- Member Discussion: Dr. Rahel Berhane asked if there is currently an effort to consolidate the CFC assessment process. She expressed thoughts that the assessment is duplicative of the SK-SAI. She asked for HHSC to streamline the assessment.
  - Ms. Jourdan acknowledged the feedback and stated that HHSC will look into potentially streamlining the process in the future.
- Ms. Carlton and Ms. Martinez requested Ms. Jourdan to attend the next Assessment and Service Delivery Subcommittee meeting to discuss CFC issues.

**3c. 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session (2021) SB 1648: Comprehensive Health homes for Integrated care for Kids Pilot Program – Ms. Veronica Karam, Program Specialist VI, Program Policy A, HHSC**

Highlights from Ms. Karam’s presentation:

- Comprehensive Health Homes for Integrated Care (CHIC) background.
- CHIC Kids Pilot Program and program goals.
- CHIC Kids Pilot Partnerships.
- CHIC Pilot sites and participation across the state.
- CHIC Kids Pilot Evaluation – report to the legislature due by December 31, 2024.

**Agenda Item 4: 90 Day Supply of Prescription Drugs – Ms. Julie Nieto, Program Specialist, Vendor Drug Program, HHSC**

Highlights from Ms. Nieto’s presentation:

- Prescription Drug Quantity Limit for Medicaid in Texas determinants:
  - Specific drug
  - Prescribing practice of the prescriber
  - Needs of the patient
- The Vendor Drug Program establishes prescription drug quantity limits for fee-for-service
- Managed Care Organization prescription drug quantity limits for Medicaid managed care

Member Discussion:

Ms. Carlton and Ms. Carriker described person experiences. They stated they would share examples with HHSC following the meeting. Ms. Carlton requested that service coordinators provide more consistent guidance.

**Agenda Item 5: Network adequacy of provider directories – Ms. Catherine Carlton, chair and Ms. Camisha Banks, Deputy Associate Commissioner of Managed Care Compliance and Operations, HHSC**

Ms. Catherine Carlton stated Ms. Banks and MCO representatives were present to address follow up questions from committee members relating to network adequacy, particularly accountability and contracts. Ms. Banks provided an overview introduced MCO partners present in person and online who would be participating in the discussion regarding accountability and contracts. She also outlined some of the steps her takes to ensure the integrity of the MCO online provider directories.

Ms. Banks introduced the following participants for today's discussion:

- Mr. Jason Gajewski, Superior Health Plan
- Mr. Brian Wheeler, Aetna Novato Health of Texas

### **Member Discussion:**

Ms. Carriker asked about contract requirements around provider directories.

- Ms. Banks described the policy outlined in the Uniform Managed Care Manual.

Ms. Carlton requested HHSC provide an update on hours authorized vs. delivered. She suggested that appointment availability be part of what is determined adequate for network adequacy.

- Ms. Banks stated that she will work with Ms. Carlton to address her concerns. She stated that the EQRO surveys include appointment availability, and that HHSC is considering including appointment availability in secret shopper calls.
- Ms. Erwin confirmed that HHSC is currently conducting a project to formally collect prior authorization data from MCOs.

### **Agenda Item 6: National Core Indicators (NCI) Child Family Survey and Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers survey and appointment availability for STAR Kids - Ms. Victoria Schluter, MSAS, Quality Analyst, HHSC**

Highlights from Ms. Schluter's presentation:

- National Core Indicator Child and Family Survey (NCI-CFS)
- NCI-CFS is conducted with families of children with disabilities who receive state services.
- Data from the survey is assessed for use as STAR Kids performance measures.
- Survey questions can be used to capture elements not in the STAR Kids Screening and Assessment Instrument.
- Flexibility with state-specific questions.
- Survey Demographics
- Information and Planning
- Access and Delivery of Services and Supports
- Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative Portal (THLCP)
- STAR Kids Member Experience Surveys
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)
- Appointment Availability

### **Member Discussion:**

Ms. Carriker asked if the results are for Medicaid only clients or for those with secondary insurance.

- Ms. Schluter offered to double check and report back to the Committee.
- Dr. Berhane commented on the sample selection not including certain individuals.
  - Ms. Schluter commented that HHSC is actively looking into how to capture the individuals that are not captured in the survey samples currently.
  - Dr. Berhane requested HHSC look at all the different ways individuals are being surveyed and simplify to evaluate STAR Kids performance.
- Ms. Schluter confirmed that the State is looking into how to use the data more efficiently.
- Ms. Carriker commented on the results not showing satisfactory performance.

- Ms. Schluter expressed HHSC's intent to look into it and potentially modify questions.
- Dr. Medellin commented on results regarding less than satisfactory performance on individuals understanding their service plans.
  - Ms. Schluter stated that is something HHSC will be monitoring.
- Ms. Williams expressed her prediction that some of the numbers are skewed. She expressed concern that the results will be interpreted as positive, and concern for how the results will be used.
  - Ms. Schluter stated that HHSC will consider her feedback.
- Ms. Carlton asked if more results can be discussed in an upcoming Subcommittee meeting, specifically around finding specialists for SK members.
  - Ms. Schluter stated that HHSC will explore the issue further.
- Dr. Berhane expressed concern that clients do not know they have a service plan. She asked for HHSC to take a deeper look at the issue.
  - Ms. Schluter confirmed HHSC will explore te issue further.

**Agenda Item 7: STAR Kids Pay for Quality 2024-2025 Measures – Mr. Vincent Abel Jr., Program Specialist VI, Quality Assurance, HHSC**

Highlights from Mr. Abel's presentation:

- At-Risk Measures for:
  1. STAR – No measure changes
  2. STAR+PLUS – New measure: "How well Doctors Communicate Composite."
  3. STAR Kids – New measure: "Family Centered Care: Personal Physician who knows child's composite"  
Measure removed: "Follow-Up after Hospitalization for Mental Illness-30 Days"
  4. CHIP – Not available due to low enrollment and low denominators. Will revisit in P4Q 2026.
- Dr. Berhane expressed her opinion that the current measures do not fit the STAR Kids population.
  - Mr. Abel stated that HHSC is open to feedback, noting that certain measures are required in statute.

**Agenda Item 8: SKMCAC subcommittee updates**

**a. Assessment and Service Delivery – Ms. Catherine Carlton, chair**

On behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Transition subcommittee chair, Ms. Catherine Carlton advised the subcommittee has been working on topics such as CFC, legislative needs and addressing workforce issues. The subcommittee will meet again on September 29, 2023 at 1 p.m. and October 30, 2023 at 1 p.m. to discuss CFC more in depth.

**b. Transition – Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, subcommittee chair**

No update provided.

**c. Health Homes – Dr. Rahel Berhane, MD, subcommittee chair**

Dr. Berhane reported although the subcommittee has not met this quarter, subcommittee members have been involved in discussion relating to the CHIC Kids Pilot.

**Agenda Item 9: Public Comment**

- Ms. Hannah Mehta (In-Person)  
Co-Founder / Executive Director  
Project TX Fragile Kids

Ms. Mehta stated her opinion that the EC should extend the SKMCAC.

- Ms. Sue Burek (Virtual)  
Parent Advocate

Ms. Burek stated her support for asking the EC to extend the SKMCAC for another two years. She described her experience with the SMMCAC, and expressed her opinion that voices of members are not heard within the SMMCAC like they are in the SKMCAC.

**Agenda Item 10: Review of Action Items and agenda items for December 12, 2023 meeting – Ms. Catherine Carlton, chair**

Ms. Carlton suggested the following items for the December 12, 2023 agenda:

- Recommendation by the SKMCAC to the Executive Commissioner to extend the committee for two (2) years.
- Continue public comment regarding Transition of SKMCAC.
- Additional discussion on CFC.
- Continue discussion around network adequacy.
- Encouraged members to attend upcoming Managed Care Advisory Committee meeting on November 8th and 9th 2023.

**Agenda Item 11: Adjournment**

Ms. Catherine Carlton adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m.

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Below is the link to the archived video of the September 13,2023 STAR Kids Managed Care Advisory Committee will be available for viewing approximately two years from date meeting posted on website and based on the HHSC records retention schedule.

[STAR Kids Managed Care Advisory Committee](#)