



MassHealth Program Advisory Committee (MPAC) and Payment Policy Advisory Board (PPAB) Meeting

Executive Office of Health and Human Services
January 13, 2026



Meeting Agenda

| Time | Detail | Moderator |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 10:00-10:10 a.m. | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">Upcoming H.2 release | Mike Levine & Celia Segel |
| 10:10-10:25 a.m. | Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vote on 11.14.25 meeting minutesMPAC by-laws voteOpen meeting law overview | Camille Pearson, Sarah Nordberg, Alison Mehlman |
| 10:25-11:25 a.m. | Discussion: Identifying member outreach and engagement strategies to minimize coverage loss from work requirements and 6-month redeterminations | Elizabeth LaMontagne, Celia Segel MPAC Members |
| 11:25 – 11:30 a.m. | Wrap-up, Q&A Next meeting: April 10, 2026 at 1PM | Camille Pearson & Sarah Nordberg |



Open Meeting Law





What Is the Open Meeting Law?

- M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25 (statute)
- 940 CMR 29.00 (regulation)
- The purpose of the Open Meeting Law is to ensure transparency in the deliberations on which public policy is based. Because the democratic process depends on the public having knowledge about the considerations underlying governmental action, the Open Meeting Law requires, with some exceptions, that meetings of public bodies be open to the public. It also seeks to balance the public's interest in witnessing the deliberations of public officials with the government's need to manage its operations efficiently. (Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Guide 2025).



What Is the Open Meeting Law?

▪ Key Terms

- Public Body**--a multiple-member board, commission, committee **or subcommittee** within the executive or legislative branch or within any county, district, city, region or town, however created, elected, appointed or otherwise constituted, established to serve a public purpose
 - Bodies appointed by a public official solely for the purpose of advising the official on a decision that individual could make alone are not public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law.
- Meeting**--a deliberation by a public body with respect to any matter within the body's jurisdiction



What Is the Open Meeting Law?

▪ Key Terms

- Deliberation**--an oral or written communication through any medium, including electronic mail, **between or among a quorum** of a public body on any public business within its jurisdiction; provided, **however, that "deliberation" shall not include the distribution of a meeting agenda, scheduling information or distribution of other procedural meeting or the distribution of reports or documents that may be discussed at a meeting, provided that no opinion of a member is expressed**
- Quorum**--a simple majority **of the members** of the public body, unless otherwise provided in a general or special law, executive order or other authorizing provision



What Is the Open Meeting Law?

▪ How does the OML apply to the MPAC and PPAB?

- Both the MPAC and PPAB are established by statute, which makes them de facto public bodies subject to the OML.
- Any public business within the public body's jurisdiction must be discussed in open meeting (with a few narrowly defined exceptions) with a quorum present.
- Meetings must be noticed at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before the meeting time and the notice must include the meeting date, time, location, agenda, and date of posting.



What Is the Open Meeting Law?

▪ How does the OML apply to the MPAC and PPAB?

- Members of a public body must not discuss any business of the public body outside of a properly noticed meeting, including in-person, by email or text, or through a third party (no "serial deliberation").
- Expression of an opinion on matters within the body's jurisdiction to a quorum of a public body is a deliberation, even if no other public body member responds.
- Unless otherwise specified by law, all votes must be taken in open session and recorded in the meeting minutes. Secret ballots are prohibited.



MPAC By-Laws





Identifying member outreach and engagement strategies to minimize coverage loss from work requirements and 6-month redeterminations



Background on Federal Medicaid Changes



What is OB3?

- In July 2025, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (known as OBBBA, or OB3) was signed into law.
- This law includes major changes to Medicaid (which in Massachusetts is MassHealth).
- OBBBA also made large changes to Health Connector coverage, SNAP, Medicare, and more.
- MassHealth is legally required to follow federal law, which means that we must implement these changes.



When do the new rules begin?

- The new rules do not all happen right away.
- **The biggest changes affecting MassHealth members don't start until Fall 2026.**



How will MassHealth members be affected?

- **The new federal rules will only affect certain members. Some members will not see any changes.** The largest impacts will be for some adults ages 19 to 64 and certain immigrants.
- To fully understand the impact of federal changes, MassHealth needs guidance from the federal government. We expect to get this guidance by the middle of 2026.
- We will keep members and stakeholders informed of the upcoming changes. We expect to send information to affected members starting in Summer 2026.

Work Requirements for Certain Adults



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| When does this happen? | January 1, 2027 |
| Who do we think is impacted, based on current information? | <p>Certain non-disabled adults, ages 19 to 64.</p> <p>However, members are exempt from this requirement (meaning that work requirements do not apply to them) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They are pregnant;• They are a parent, guardian or caretaker of a child under age 14 or someone with a disability;• They are medically frail;• They participate in a substance use treatment or rehab program; or• They meet another exemption identified by the federal government* |
| What is the change? | <p>Affected members will need to do one of the following activities to retain their MassHealth coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work 80 or more hours per month;• Volunteer 80 or more hours per month;• Participate in a work program for 80 or more hours per month;• Be enrolled in an educational program at least half-time;• Do a combination of the above activities for 80 or more hours per month; or• Earn at least \$580 per month. |

Supporting Members through Work Requirements



MassHealth's goal is to use existing data to minimize the number of people who need to take action to meet work requirements and maintain coverage. MassHealth has ~2M members, but not everyone is subject to work requirements.

Step 1:

Automatically identify members who don't fit criteria

First, MassHealth will automatically identify anyone who is not impacted by work requirements. We will filter out children, people age 65+, pregnant individuals, people with disabilities, members in limited or emergency coverage, and anyone else we are allowed to exclude.

Step 2:

See if remaining members already meet requirements

Then, MassHealth will use available data (such as income) to automatically confirm if members already meet work requirements, so they don't need to take action. Over time, MassHealth aims to add more data sources so we can confirm even more members.

Step 3:

Help members who need to take action

Everyone else will need to take action to show MassHealth that work requirements don't apply to them (e.g., they have a disability or meet another exemption) **OR** they are meeting the requirements through work, education, or volunteering.



Renewals Every 6 Months for Certain Adults

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| When does this happen? | January 1, 2027 |
| Who do we think is impacted, based on current information? | Non-disabled adults, ages 19 to 64, who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not pregnant;• Not the parent or caretaker of a child or disabled adult; and• Not a member of a Tribe. |
| What is the change? | Affected members will need to renew their MassHealth eligibility <u>every six months</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently, members only need to renew their eligibility once a year. |

How Will Members Know if They Are Impacted by These Changes?

MassHealth is working on a comprehensive outreach strategy to inform affected members.



MassHealth will start communicating with affected members in **Summer 2026**.



MassHealth will **reach out directly to affected members** through targeted notices, text messages, phone calls, and other communications.

Communications will be in the **top 6 member languages*** and will be designed to be clear, simple, and accessible.



MassHealth will work with **Community-Based Organizations, providers, health plans, employers, and other partners** across the state so they can help members stay covered.

MassHealth will provide ongoing information and technical support to these groups as the new rules start.



MassHealth will also issue **broad, accessible communications** through its website, social media, and other outlets, so members are aware of updates and know to look for important notices.

**English, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese and Haitian Creole*



Objective of today's conversation

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation is working with Manatt Health to draft a report, informed by a focused literature review and targeted interviews, with recommendations for how MassHealth and its partners can support **outreach and engagement strategies to reduce coverage loss resulting from implementation of OB3** work requirements and 6-month redeterminations.

Today's conversation will be guided by members of the Manatt Health team with the goal of helping to inform this report.

We ask that you approach this conversation thinking about the role that you and your organization can take in supporting members through the implementation of work-requirements and 6-month redeterminations.

BCBS and Manatt will also be meeting with MassHealth's Member Advisory Committee (MAC) at the end of January for a member-focused conversation.



Q&A, Housekeeping

Next Meeting: April 10, 2026 at 1 p.m.

Visit the [MassHealth Program Advisory Committee webpage](#) for information on the committee and upcoming meetings.