Full Agenda

Updated October 6, all times are EDT. This is a working agenda and is subject to change.

NAMD 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

★ Wednesday, October 21

(State & Territory Medicaid Agency Attendees Only)

8:30 AM - 7:00 PM	Registration Desk Open **Maryland Foyer, Ballroom Level**
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	State- & Territory-Only Breakfast **Cherry Blossom Foyer, Ballroom Level**
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM	State- & Territory-Only Meetings
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	State- & Territory-Only Networking Lunch **Cherry Blossom Foyer, Ballroom Level**
1:15 PM - 4:45 PM	State- & Territory-Only Meetings
5:15 PM - 7:15 PM	**Exhibit Hall Opening Reception** **Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level** *All Attendees Welcome!* Mix and mingle with fellow state and territory leaders and connect with industry partners.

★ Thursday, October 22

7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Registration Desk Open **Maryland Foyer, Ballroom Level**
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open **Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level**
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Networking Breakfast **Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level** *Sponsored by* ***Centene Corporation***
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM	Plenary Session: **Welcome & Opening Remarks** **Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level** **Kate McEvoy, Esq**, Executive Director, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) **Stuart Portman†**, Executive Director, Georgia Department of Community Health; NAMD Board President
9:20 AM - 10:10 AM	Plenary Session: **Implementing Federal Medicaid Policy: A View from the State Executive Branch & Legislative Lens** **Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level** State leaders and legislators discuss implementing federal Medicaid policy. **Moderator:** **Todd Richardson**, Partner, Catalyst Government Affairs **Panelists:** **Christy Donohue†**, Commissioner, Bureau for Medical Services, West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources **Brian Helton**, State Senator, West Virginia **Anna Moeller**, State Representative, Illinois General Assembly **Laura Phelan, MPA†**, Medicaid Administrator, Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services
10:10 AM - 10:25 AM	Recorded Remarks from the CMS Administrator **Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level**
10:25 AM - 11:15 AM	Networking Break **Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level** *Sponsored by* ***GDIT***

★ Thursday, October 22 *(continued)*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Concurrent Breakouts

- **Measuring Outcomes of Community Engagement**
  Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
  Session on how states will report and evaluate community engagement data.
  Moderator:
  Kate Massey, MPAff, Executive Director, Medicaid & CHIP Payment & Access Commission
  Panelists:
  Audrey Frenzel†, Director of Medicaid, Indiana Family & Social Services Administration
  Amanda Peden, MPH, Unit Manager, Social Health Needs & Analytics Projects (SHNAP), Oregon Health Authority
  Sara Vitolo, Deputy Director, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services (CMCS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **State Innovation in Hospital Access & Payment**
  Cherry Blossom Ballroom, Ballroom Level
  States discuss strategies for hospital access and payment amid new pressures.
  Moderator:
  Jonathan Kromm, PhD, Managing Director, Health Management Associates (HMA)
  Panelists:
  Maureen Hensley-Quinn, MPA, Senior Program Director, National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)
  Jesse Springer†, Medicaid Division Administrator, Wyoming Department of Health
  Andrew Wilson, Esq†, Deputy Secretary for Medicaid, Delaware Department of Health & Social Services

†Medicaid Director

Full Agenda

Updated October 6, all times are EDT. This is a working agenda and is subject to change.

NAMD 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

★ Thursday, October 22 *(continued)*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM **Concurrent Breakouts** *(continued)*

- **The Future of Section 1115 Waivers: Navigating Approval, Value, & Sustainability**
  National Harbor 2-3, National Harbor Level
  State leaders discuss navigating approval and sustainability of 1115 waivers.
  Moderator:
  Darin Gordon, Founding Partner, Speire Healthcare Strategies
  Panelists:
  Alanna Dancis†, Acting Medicaid Director, State of New Mexico Health Care Authority
  Janet Mann†, Secretary & Medicaid Director, Arkansas Department of Human Services
  Stephen Smith†, Director, TennCare, Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration

- **How States, Territories, & Researchers are Building Partnerships**
  National Harbor 10-11, National Harbor Level
  Panel on building successful Medicaid state-academic research partnerships.
  Moderator:
  Tracy Johnson, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Anschutz
  Panelists:
  William Halsey, LCSW, MBA, Director of Healthcare Policy & Innovation, Connecticut Department of Social Services
  Michael Smith, SCALE Senior Data Scientist, Yale Tobin Center for Economic Policy
  David Stevenson, PhD, Professor & Chair, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
  Victor Wu, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, TennCare, Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration

†Medicaid Director

★ Thursday, October 22 *(continued)*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM **Concurrent Breakouts** *(continued)*

- **Medicaid Innovations in Tribal Care Delivery**
  Maryland 1-4, Ballroom Level
  Panel on how tribes and Medicaid programs collaborate to improve care access.
  Moderator:
  Lindsey Browning, Deputy Executive Director of Programs, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD)
  Panelists:
  Melanie Bush†, Deputy Secretary, Division of Health Benefits, North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services
  Casey Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority
  Emily Ricci, MPH†, Deputy Commissioner & Medicaid Director, Alaska Department of Health
  Jim Roberts, Senior Executive Liaison, Intergovernmental Affairs, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM **Networking Lunch**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
Sponsored by Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP)

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM **Plenary Session: The Future of Technology in Healthcare & Medicaid**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
Thought leaders explore how Medicaid can advance healthcare technology.
Moderator:
Jennifer Anastasoff, Founder & Executive Director, Tech Talent Project
Panelists:
Krista Fremming, Assistant Director, Medical Services, North Dakota Human Services
Amy Gleason, Administrator, U.S. DOGE; Deputy Administrator & Chief Product Officer of OHTP, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Marina Nitze, Senior Fellow, Tech Viaduct

★ Thursday, October 22 *(continued)*

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM **Plenary Session: The 2026 NAMD Spotlight Awards**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
NAMD announces the 2026 Spotlight Award recipients for program innovation.
Presenter:
Meghan Groen†, Medicaid Director, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM **Networking Break**
Crisis Engineering (Marina Nitze) Book Signing
Sponsored by Delta Dental
Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM **Concurrent Breakouts**

- **Member Outreach & Engagement: Research Findings & Strategies in Practice**
  Cherry Blossom Ballroom, Ballroom Level
  Panel shares research and strategies for member outreach under new rules.
  Moderator:
  Hailey Gutzmer, MPH, Senior Policy Analyst, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD)
  Panelists:
  Kevin Callison, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Policy & Management, Tulane University
  Jacqueline Cummings, Medicaid Chief Operating Officer, Louisiana Department of Health
  Amy Dobbins, Acting Assistant Director, Apple Health Eligibility & Access, Washington State Health Care Authority
  David Pearson, Chief Executive Officer, Washington Association for Community Health

Full Agenda

Updated October 6, all times are EDT. This is a working agenda and is subject to change.

NAMD 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

★ Thursday, October 22 *(continued)*

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM **Concurrent Breakouts** *(continued)*

- **Duals Integration: Concrete Pathways & Tools for States**
  National Harbor 2-3, National Harbor Level
  States share strategies for coordinating care for dually eligible individuals.
  Moderator:
  Melanie Bella, Executive Advisor, Cressey & Company
  Panelists:
  Gary Bacher, Acting Director, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office; Chief Strategy Officer, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
  Kelli Emans, Senior Strategic Integration Advisor, Home & Community Living Administration, Washington State Health Care Authority
  Seth Gold†, Medicaid Director, Louisiana Department of Health

- **Building Children's Behavioral Health by Design**
  National Harbor 10-11, National Harbor Level
  Panel shares research and strategies for member outreach under new rules.
  Moderator:
  Scott Partika†, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid
  Panelists:
  Deborah Harburger, MSW, Director of Policy & Financing, Innovations Institute, University of Connecticut School of Social Work
  Lee Robinson, MD, Chief of Accountable Care & Behavioral Health, Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services
  Pamela Hooks Sager, JD, Executive Director, Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL)

★ Thursday, October 22 *(continued)*

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM **Concurrent Breakouts** *(continued)*

- **What the State Budget Outlook Means for Medicaid**
  Maryland 1-4, Ballroom Level
  Discussion on state fiscal pressures and their impact on Medicaid budgets.
  Moderator:
  Leah Wavrunek, Senior Policy Analyst, National Association of State Budget Officers
  Panelists:
  Sean Dunbar, Unit Chief, Medicaid & Prescription Drugs Cost Estimates, Congressional Budget Office
  Soraya Miller, Medicaid Chief Financial Officer, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
  Robin Rudowitz, Senior Vice President, KFF

5:00 PM - 5:40 PM **Plenary Session: Medicaid, Through Many Lenses**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
Panel debates federal flexibility, fiscal sustainability, and access to care.
Moderator:
Rebecca Adams, Lead Health Care Analyst, *The Washington Post*
Panelists:
Joan Alker, Executive Director & Research Professor, Georgetown University Center for Children & Families
Brian Blase, PhD, President, Paragon Health Institute
Calder Lynch, Vice President, Regional Medicaid President, Humana
Daniel Tsai, Director of Health, City & County of San Francisco

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Evening Networking Reception**
Cherry Blossom Foyer, Ballroom Level
Sponsored by Elevance Health

★ Friday, October 23

8:15 AM - 12:30 PM **Registration Desk Open**
Maryland Foyer, Ballroom Level

8:15 AM - 11:30 AM **Exhibit Hall Open**
Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level

8:15 AM - 9:30 AM **Networking Breakfast**
Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level

8:15 AM - 9:30 AM **Alumni & Medicaid Director Breakfast**
(Closed Meeting)

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Plenary Session: Rural Health Transformation Through the Lens of Medicaid Members**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
Rural Medicaid members share perspectives on access and health outcomes.
Moderator:
Jeff Huebner, MD, Executive Medical Officer, Division of Medicaid Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Panelists:
Samantha Barncastle, Parent Advisor & Attorney, New Mexico Medicaid Beneficiary Advisory Council
Wanda Felty, Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services, State of Oklahoma
Andy Johnson, Experience Council Member, Division of Medicaid Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM **Fireside Chat: One Year In: Reflections from the CMCS Director**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
Dan Brillman discusses his priorities for the Medicaid program moving forward.
Presenters:
Dan Brillman, Deputy Administrator & Director, Centers for Medicaid & CHIP Services (CMCS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Melisa Byrd†, Senior Deputy Director & Medicaid Director, District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance; NAMD Board Immediate Past President

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM **Networking Break**
Prince George Hall A, Lower Atrium Level
Sponsored by GeneDX

†Medicaid Director

Full Agenda

Updated October 6, all times are EDT. This is a working agenda and is subject to change.

NAMD 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

★ Friday, October 23 *(continued)*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM **Concurrent Breakouts**

- **What's on Deck for Medicaid on the Hill**
  Cherry Blossom Ballroom, Ballroom Level
  Congressional staff preview 2027 Medicaid policy considerations (off-the-record; session will not be recorded).
  Moderator:
  Rodney Whitlock, PhD, Managing Director, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies
  Panelists:
  Marielle Kress, Senior Health Policy Advisor, United States Senate Committee on Finance
  Jonathan Kupperman, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Energy & Commerce
  Anna Rose Moore, Senior Health Policy Advisor, United States Senate Committee on Finance
  Nick Wallace, MPP, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Energy & Commerce

- **Smarter Tools for Detecting Medicaid Fraud**
  National Harbor 2-3, National Harbor Level
  States share how AI and data dashboards strengthen Medicaid fraud detection.
  Moderator:
  Kate McEvoy, Esq, Executive Director, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD)
  Panelists:
  Kevin O'Donnell, JD, Director, Division of Program Integrity, D.C. Department of Health Care Finance
  Vanessa Templeman, Inspector General; Board President, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS); National Association for Medicaid Program Integrity (NAMPI)
  Thera Tyner, Analytics Manager, Alabama Medicaid Agency

★ Friday, October 23 *(continued)*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM **Concurrent Breakouts** *(continued)*

- **Innovations in Prescription Drug Coverage: The Future of the Formulary**
  National Harbor 10-11, National Harbor Level
  Panel explores emerging approaches to Medicaid prescription drug coverage.
  Moderator:
  Jack Rollins, MPH, Director of Federal Policy, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD)
  Panelists:
  Corinne Alberts, Deputy Director, Division of Drug Innovation, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
  Amir Bassiri, MSW†, Medicaid Director & Deputy Commissioner, New York State Department of Health
  Joshua Moore, PharmD†, State Medicaid Director, Missouri Department of Social Services
  Mickey Morgan, Director, Medicaid Drug Rebate Program, Division of Pharmacy, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
  Mariana Socal, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Policy & Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

★ Friday, October 23 *(continued)*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM **Concurrent Breakouts** *(continued)*

- **How States are Modernizing Medicaid Through Technology**
  Maryland 1-4, Ballroom Level
  States share how technology is modernizing Medicaid systems and operations.
  Moderator:
  Stephany Zabala, Policy Analyst, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD)
  Panelists:
  John Connolly, PhD†, Deputy Commissioner & Medicaid Director, Minnesota Department of Human Services
  Rebecca Dugger, PhD, Deputy Executive Director of Eligibility & Enrollment, Georgia Department of Community Health
  Melissa Miller†, Medicaid Director, Oklahoma Health Care Authority

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM **Closing Luncheon**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level

12:40 PM - 1:25 PM Plenary Session: **New Governor, New Priorities**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level
Former directors share strategies for navigating gubernatorial transitions.
Moderators:
Mark Larson, Senior Vice President of Leadership & Capacity Building, Center for Health Care Strategies
Kate McEvoy, Esq, Executive Director, National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD)
Panelists:
Matthew Ahern, Chief Operating Officer, Virginia Department of Health
Carmen Heredia, Principal & Owner, Sonora Strategy Partners
Dave Richard, Senior Vice President, McGuireWoods Consulting

1:25 PM - 1:30 PM Plenary Session: **Closing Remarks**
Maryland Ballroom, Ballroom Level

†Medicaid Director