
What is the RMHP Member Advisory Council?

RMHP decided early on we wanted this to be real and meaningful Member engagement. We've worked to build an effective council that has involvement in higher level program and policy work and acts as the eyes and ears for RMHP regarding the Member perspective. The council also shares information. Each council member represents a region of the Western Slope. The council continues to follow the priorities set by Member feedback. The council will also be engaging in Member-centric education and information sharing – on topics chosen by and important to Members.

Why is this necessary?

The State requires some sort of effort but does not require anything this extensive. We believe the Member's voice is important to the success of our health care plans. Data supports this conclusion. Members have a perspective that is essential to consider when designing health programs. Many programs over the years have struggled due to failure to engage Members in a meaningful way.

What are the responsibilities of Members?

Members are the eyes and ears of RMHP. They attend quarterly or bi-monthly meetings and must prepare for these meetings. RMHP relies on the expertise of Members on a wide variety of topics including outreach efforts, educational activities and complaint processes. The terms are 2 years.

How often does the council meet?

The councils meets quarterly or bi-monthly.

Can non-council Members attend these meetings?

The meetings are not open to non-council Members because this is a Member-driven process. Notes of meetings are available for any RMHP Member to review.

Are Members paid for their time?

Council Members are not paid for their time, but all expenses are reimbursed. Local groups will be provided with liaisons to assist them with logistics and organizing their work. The council is provided with staff support from the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition.

How can I join the council?

To join the council, you must first meet these qualifications:

- Must be a Medicaid Member or Child Health Plan Plus Member or immediate family member/caregiver of a Medicaid or CHP+ Member
- Interest in healthcare policy
- Interest in increasing client engagement
- Enjoy working in groups
- Desire to learn and increase skills
- Desire to teach and help empower peers who are also Medicaid or CHP+ clients
- Willingness to attend quarterly meetings in Grand Junction or Larimer County (all expenses covered, including hotel rooms)
- Willingness to work in local community on outreach projects

If a Member has input, can they contact RMHP?

Absolutely! Members can and should contact RMHP with any input, particularly if it's related to their immediate care needs. This council is about working as a group—and the collective impact of getting Members together to improve the system.

Why did RMHP partner with the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC) to facilitate the council?

CCDC is a statewide, Member-run organization that has the relationships and ability to involve local leaders and organizations such as Centers for Independent Living. CCDC is able to keep the relationship purely consultative, ensuring the group is truly leading decisions. CCDC has experience with assuring Member involvement with policy and setting up local groups to engage in outreach and education. CCDC is run by and for people with disabilities and covers people with all types of disabilities.