

Healthcare Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Federal Advisory Committee Meeting 1 | May 18, 2026
The Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue S.W. Washington, D.C., 20201

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Healthcare Advisory Committee met in-person at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, D.C. and virtually via Zoom.gov on May 18, 2026, at 2:30pm ET. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the meeting was open to the public and meeting information was made available on the [Federal Register](#).

Meeting slides and other meeting materials are available on the [Healthcare Advisory Committee webpage](#). Committee attendance, the agenda, and public comments are available in the appendix of this meeting summary.

Overview

The Healthcare Advisory Committee held its inaugural public meeting on May 18, 2026. Dr. Clive Fields, Committee Chair, emphasized the Committee's role in providing practical, ongoing advice to HHS and CMS on ways to improve, strengthen, and modernize the U.S. healthcare system and Make America Healthy Again (MAHA).

Committee members introduced themselves and highlighted their experience in clinical care, behavioral health, technology, rural care, finance, value-based care, and more, underscoring the breadth of expertise assembled. The Committee also reviewed and adopted bylaws. The Committee introduced six Working Groups and the initial focus of each. Finally, Dr. Fields invited the public to engage with the Committee's work through public comment throughout the Committee's tenure.

Committee Bylaws

Dr. Fields provided an overview of the Committee’s draft bylaws and facilitated a vote (Table 1). The Committee bylaws were adopted by the Committee and can be found on the [Healthcare Advisory Committee webpage](#).

Table 1. Healthcare Advisory Committee Bylaws Vote Results

Voting Member	Bylaws Vote
Clive K. Fields, MD	✓ Yes
Robert Bessler, MD	✓ Yes
Sebastian Caliri	✓ Yes
David Carmouche, MD	✓ Yes
Elizabeth M. Fago	✓ Yes
William (Bill) J. Gassen, JD	✓ Yes
Jenni Gudapati, PhD, MBA, RN	✓ Yes
Valerie D. Huhn	✓ Yes
Dennis Laraway, MBA	✓ Yes
Dan Liljenquist, JD	✓ Yes
Andrew Lynch, PhD	✓ Yes
Ursel J. McElroy	✓ Yes
Kyu Rhee, MD, MPP	✓ Yes
Tony Robbins	Not present
Russ Thomas, JD	✓ Yes
Linda Thomas-Hemak, MD, FCAP, FAA	✓ Yes
Vote Count	✓ Yes: 15 — Abstain: 0 ✗ No: 0 Not present: 1

Working Group Scope

The Committee will initially be supported by six Working Groups, intended to serve as its “acceleration engine” by turning broad healthcare challenges into manageable opportunity statements and developing actionable ideas for full Committee discussion.

MAHA by Improving Wellness & Preventing Chronic Disease, led by Dr. Clive Fields, will focus on solutions to prevent and better manage chronic disease by championing the idea of the

“healthspan”—a cradle-to-grave opportunity which starts at home, lives in communities, and is supported by the healthcare system. The group will initially focus on bringing prevention into communities, accelerating access to high-quality care teams that include behavioral health practitioners, strengthening patient-provider relationships, and using technology to help patients live longer and healthier lives.

Reducing Administrative Burden, led by Dan Liljenquist, will examine how to advance accountability for safety and outcomes while reducing unnecessary administrative burden. The group will explore simplifying accountability systems, initially focusing on eliminating unnecessary and burdensome regulations, creating a process to maintain regulatory hygiene, evaluating friction across CMS programs, and recalibrating oversight and accountability.

Deploying Real-time Data, led by Sebastian Caliri, aims to be the foundational effort supporting the Committee’s other priorities, building the real-time data infrastructure needed to reduce administrative burden, improve quality, and reduce friction between payers and providers, and combat fraud, waste, and abuse. The group will initially focus on improving data liquidity to ease access to real-time data, identifying data solutions for payer-provider collaboration, and modernizing Medicaid data infrastructure across states.

Improving Care for Vulnerable Populations, led by Dr. Kyu Rhee, will focus on enhancing care for vulnerable populations including those served by Medicaid, starting by reimagining and defining quality for these populations. The group will initially focus on determining which non-medical services belong in Medicaid; using Medicaid data to reduce costs, improve quality, and demonstrate return on investment; incentivizing innovation and best practices; and moving Medicaid from volume to value.

Strengthening Medicare Advantage (MA), led by Dr. Robert Bessler, will focus on Strengthening Medicare Advantage sustainability, including modernizing risk adjustment and quality measurement. The group will initially focus on identifying incentives for healthier patient behaviors, helping beneficiaries better understand plan choices, reducing provider friction, improving connectivity across care settings, and increasing plan predictability. The Working Group will also maintain an emphasis on supporting Medicare Trust Fund sustainability.

Crushing Fraud, Waste, & Abuse, led by Russ Thomas, will focus on program integrity while preserving access for compliant providers and beneficiaries. The Working Group aims to use technology, tools, and partnerships to proactively and transparently prevent fraud and identify innovation approaches to reduce waste and abuse. The group will initially focus on supporting patient decision-making with modern technology, incentivizing appropriate utilization, accelerating payment timeliness, and improving CMS’s existing fraud, waste, and abuse technologies, tools, and processes.

Public Comment and Next Steps

Members of the public were invited to submit comments through the Zoom Q&A feature during the meeting or by sending an email to the Committee's mailbox (HAC@cms.hhs.gov) after the meeting. As Dr. Fields noted, meeting-related public comments submitted prior to the meeting are available to the Committee and the public in the appendix of this summary.

In closing, Dr. Fields thanked Committee members for their time and commitment and expressed enthusiasm about working together over the Committee's two-year term. He encouraged members of the public to stay connected by following the [Healthcare Advisory Committee website](#) for updates, sending comments to the Committee's mailbox, and participating in future meetings.

Appendix A: Meeting 1 Attendance

Committee Member Attendees

Table 2. Healthcare Advisory Committee Meeting 1 Attendance

Committee Member	Attendance
Clive K. Fields, MD (Chair)	Present
Robert Bessler, MD	Present
Sebastian Caliri	Present
David Carmouche, MD	Present
Elizabeth M. Fago	Present
William (Bill) J. Gassen, JD	Present
Jenni Gudapati, PhD, MBA, RN	Present
Valerie D. Huhn	Present
Dennis Laraway, MBA	Present
Dan Liljenquist, JD	Present
Andrew Lynch, PhD	Present
Ursel J. McElroy	Present
Kyu Rhee, MD, MPP	Present
Tony Robbins	Not present
Russ Thomas, JD	Present
Linda Thomas-Hemak, MD, FCAP, FAA	Present

CMS Attendees

- Morgan Taylor, Designated Federal Officer
- Kim Brandt, JD
- Stephanie Carlton
- Rachel Kelly, MD

Appendix B: Committee Meeting 1 Agenda

Agenda | May 18, 2026, 2:30 – 5:00 PM

Welcome | Dr. Clive Fields (Chair), Morgan Taylor (Designated Federal Officer)
2:30 – 2:45 PM

Introductions | Dr. Clive Fields
2:45 – 3:15 PM

Bylaws Discussion | Dr. Clive Fields
3:15 – 3:35 PM

Working Group Scope | Dr. Clive Fields, Working Group Leads (Dr. Clive Fields, Dan Liljenquist, Sebastian Caliri, Dr. Kyu Rhee, Dr. Robert Bessler, and Russ Thomas)
3:35 – 4:20 PM

Public Comment | Dr. Clive Fields
4:20 – 4:50 PM

Closing and Next Steps | Dr. Clive Fields, Morgan Taylor
4:50 – 5:00 PM

Appendix C: Public Comments

Meeting related public comments received in the Committee mailbox (HAC@cms.hhs.gov) will be available on the [Healthcare Advisory Committee website](#). Throughout the meeting, members of the public submitted questions to the Committee using the Zoom Q&A function. Questions not previously answered, along with responses, are included below.

Question: Tony Robbins is listed as a committee member but doesn't seem to be here. Is he still on the committee?

Answer: Tony Robbins is a member of the Healthcare Advisory Committee. He was unable to attend the Committee's meeting on May 18 and was sworn in the following day.