



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

August 12, 2026

TO: Members of the Commission on Medicaid

FROM: Jerard Brown, 303-866-4784, jerard.brown@coleg.gov
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SUBJECT: Overview of the Commission on Medicaid

Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the 2026 membership of the Commission on Medicaid, the origin and charge of the commission, procedures, and information regarding commission staff and the commission website.

Commission Charge and Duties

The Commission on Medicaid (commission) was established by [Senate Bill 26-167](#). The commission is charged with developing recommendations regarding the implementation of new federal Medicaid policy changes that go into effect in 2026, 2027, and 2028, and to support Coloradans impacted by those policy changes. Specific duties include:

- reviewing the state Medicaid program's administrative structures and identifying opportunities and challenges;
- analyzing current enrollment, eligibility, services, benefits, payment rates, and other program attributes for efficiency and value;
- exploring Medicaid financing and evaluating federal funding optimization;
- preparing insights and policies regarding impacts of the federal H.R. 1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, on Colorado's Medicaid program; and
- evaluating the impact of its proposed recommendations on member access to care, quality of care, and health equity.



The report must document the commission's process and any recommendations for both short-term and long-term changes. The report must be completed by December 11, 2026.

Commission Meetings

The commission will meet at least 6 times but no more than 12 times between May 14, 2026, and December 11, 2026. The commission must invite relevant state agency representatives and Medicaid stakeholders to present and provide feedback on commission recommendations

Technical Advisor

Senate Bill 26-167 requires the commission to contract with a technical advisor to assist in writing and submitting a report to the General Assembly and the Governor. After reviewing submitted proposals, the commission selected Summer Gathercole, SHG Advisors, as its technical advisor.

Commission Membership

The ten members of the Commission on Medicaid include members of the Joint Budget Committee, the chairs of the House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees, and members of the minority party. Table 1 below lists the members of the commission.

Table 1
Commission on Medicaid Members

Senators	Representatives
Judy Amabile, Chair	Kyle Brown, Vice Chair
Jeff Bridges	Carlos Barron
Lisa Frizell	Lindsay Gilchrist
Barbara Kirkmeyer	Emily Sirota
Kyle Mullica	Rick Taggart

Commission Staff and Website

Technical Advisor

Summer Gathercole, Managing Director with SHG Advisors, serves as the technical advisor for the commission. She can be reached by email at summer@shgadvisors.com or by phone at 970-833-1506.



Legislative Staff

Legislative Council Staff provides logistical and research support to the commission, with assistance from Joint Budget Committee Staff. Table 2 below lists contact information for Legislative Council Staff and Joint Budget Committee Staff.

Table 2
Legislative Council Staff and Joint Budget Committee Staff

Organization	Staff Member	Phone Number	Email Address
Legislative Council Staff	Jerard Brown	303-866-4784	jerard.brown@coleg.gov
Legislative Council Staff	Elijah Chadioun	303-866-6264	elijah.chadioun@coleg.gov
Legislative Council Staff	Kristine McLaughlin	303-866-4776	kristine.mclaughlin@coleg.gov
Legislative Council Staff	Samantha Lattof	720-719-7912	samantha.lattof@coleg.gov
Joint Budget Committee Staff	Eric Kurtz	303-866-4952	eric.kurtz@coleg.gov
Joint Budget Committee Staff	Emily Pope	303-866-4961	emily.pope@coleg.gov
Joint Budget Committee Staff	Tom Dermody	303-866-4963	tom.dermody@coleg.gov
Joint Budget Committee Staff	Phoebe Canagarajah	303-866-2149	phoebe.canagarajah@coleg.gov

Website

Meeting materials, summaries, and staff documents are available on the [Commission on Medicaid's website](#).