



April 17, 2026

Governor Greg Gianforte
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Creation of Rural Health Transformation Center of Excellence Advisory Council

Dear Governor Gianforte,

In accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122, as Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (department), I request your approval of the following agency-created advisory council.

Rural Health Transformation Center of Excellence Advisory Council

The name of the advisory council is the Rural Health Transformation Center of Excellence Advisory Council. The council will be supported and staffed by the department.

Purpose of Advisory Council

The purpose of the Rural Health Transformation Center of Excellence Advisory Council is to develop recommendations to align care delivery services with rural health needs at the county and facility level, in accordance with Montana's federally approved Rural Health Transformation Program plan. These recommendations will help facilities improve financial sustainability and ensure continued access to critical health services in rural Montana.

The Rural Health Transformation Center of Excellence Advisory Council is created solely for the purpose of acting in an advisory capacity to the department as described in Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-102(1) and will not administer a program or function or set policy.

Composition of Council

The Rural Health Transformation Center of Excellence Advisory Council shall consist of no more than 25 members with experience and expertise in the delivery of health care services in rural Montana. The council's composition will be as follows:

20 Voting Members

- One rural consumer of health care
- One rural health care primary care clinician
- One tribal health representative

- 12 individual facility representatives
 - Four of which represent a Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospital
 - Six of which represent a Critical Access Hospital or Rural Emergency Hospital
 - Two hospitals owned by or affiliated with a PPS hospital
 - Four independent, non-affiliated hospitals
 - Two of which represent a Federally Qualified Health Center
- Two department representatives or their designees
 - One of which is the Department Director
 - One of which is the State Medicaid Director
- Three legislator representatives
 - Two of which are members of the majority party
 - One of which is a member of the minority party

Five Non-voting Members

- One statewide hospital organization representative
- One statewide primary care organization representative
- One health care facility-owned organization/professional network representative
- Two health insurance carrier representatives

The council members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the director of the department. At their first meeting the council members shall elect a presiding officer and any other officers they determine to be appropriate.

Appointed Members

Members will be selected through a competitive application process. Appointments will be made in early June 2026.

Council Duration

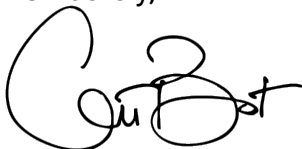
The council will expire on April 17, 2028, unless rescinded or renewed by the director.

Reimbursement

Eligible council members shall be reimbursed for travel and related expenses pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122(5).

For further information, contact Gene Hermanson, Deputy Medicaid Director, via email (ghermanson2@mt.gov).

Sincerely,



Charles T. Brereton
Director

cc: Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Kristen.Juras@mt.gov
Hannah Slusser, Boards and Appointments Advisor, Hannah.Slusser@mt.gov