PROGRAM OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (PACE)

Presenter: Annette Fischer

June 13, 2021

NORTH Dakota | Human Services

Be Legendary.™

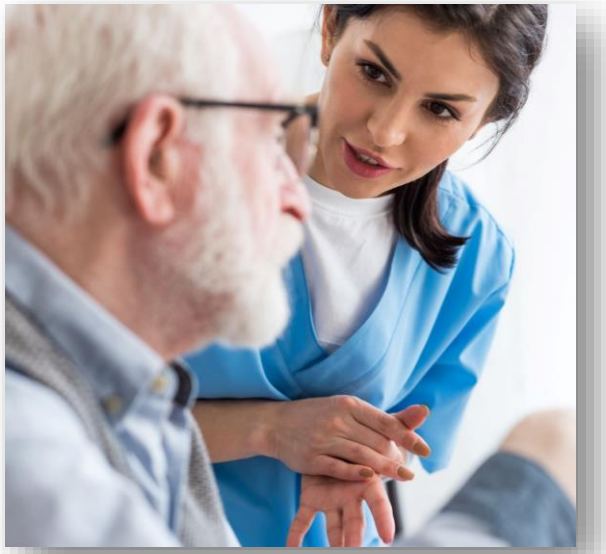
Growing PACE Access in North Dakota

- My name is Annette Fischer. I am the current North Dakota PACE administrator. Many of you will remember that I spoke about PACE at the May 11th MMAC meeting, giving an overview of what the PACE program is.

- This is not a repeat presentation ☺.

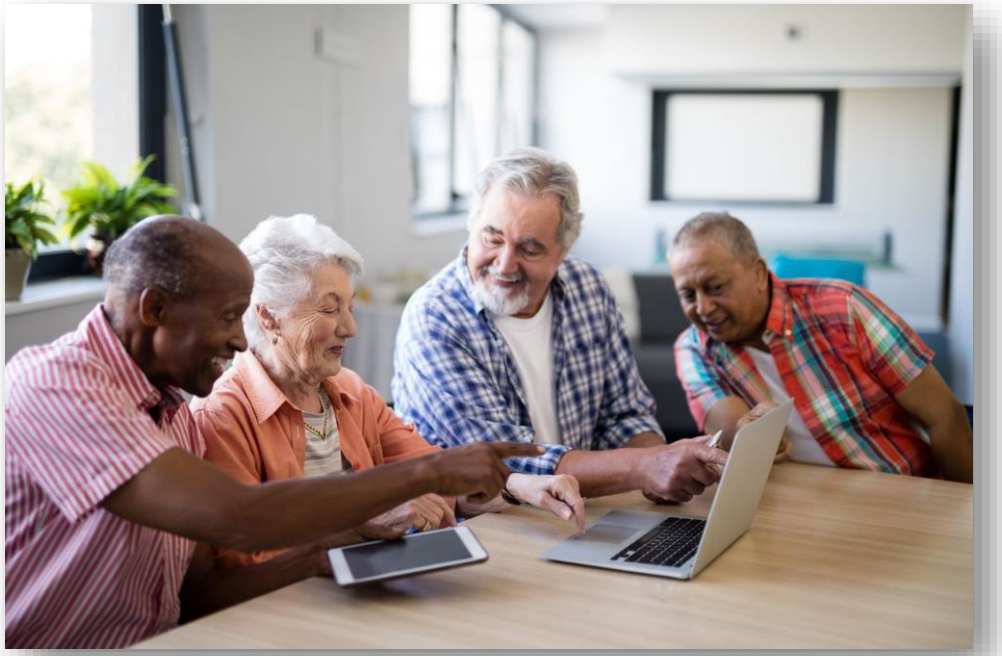
- Because some of you may not have been at the May 11th meeting, I will give a shorter overview of the PACE program tonight and then talk primarily about the ND Medicaid goal of growing PACE access in North Dakota, so that PACE services are an option for more members and becomes available in more service areas across the state.

PACE Overview



- The main goal of the PACE program is to help people who qualify for nursing home level of care, to remain in their home and community and enhance their quality of life.
- PACE is a federally and state funded program that provides **all** health care needs to frail and elderly individuals living in the community. The State contracts with PACE providers who coordinate patient-centered health care for each PACE participant.
- Participation in the PACE program is voluntary and is not restricted to individuals who are either Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries. PACE participants can disenroll at anytime.
- At the time of enrollment, PACE may be an alternative to assisted living or nursing home placement but once a person is enrolled in PACE, if they need hospital, nursing home, assisted living or basic care placement, they do **not** have to disenroll from PACE to receive those services.
- PACE is designed to be a lifelong program.

Eligibility



PACE serves individuals who are:

- At least 55 years old
- Qualify for nursing home level of care
- Live within a PACE service area
- Able to live safely in the community with PACE support <u>at time of enrollment</u>

Services

Services are provided by the required PACE Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). This team is made up of professionals from 11 different health care areas. IDT members assess each person's needs, and together they develop a care plan, and deliver all health care services, including short-term care and long-term care services, as needed.

Every 6 months the participant is reassessed, and a care conference is held to review progress and determine if changes are needed in the plan of care.

The eleven required IDT disciplines are listed in the diagram to the right.

Services that must be provided by PACE include:

- primary care services,
- social services,
- restorative therapies, including physical and occupational therapies,
- personal care and supportive services,
- nutritional counseling,
- recreational therapy and meals.

Services

- **The day center is a required component for each PACE site**.
- Regular attendance at the PACE day center is not required, but it offers many advantages. Participants can visit with a nurse, physician or mid-level provider about their healthcare routinely at the clinic, which is in the day center. Physical, occupational and speech therapy are also provided at the day center.
- Lunch is served daily Monday through Friday.
- Stimulating programs and activities are provided for socialization, enjoyment and relaxation.

Provider and Payment

- North Dakota Medicaid currently has a contract with only one PACE provider, Northland PACE. Northland has an enrollment of 171 participants at their current Dickinson, Bismarck and Minot locations. They have a site in Fargo, but they have no enrollments there currently.
- A PACE provider receives one capitated monthly payment for each Medicaid eligible participant. This is the only Medicaid payment made for the PACE participant during the month. The average monthly Medicaid payment for a PACE participant is right around $5,000.
- PACE providers assume full financial risk for the participants' health care without limits on amount, duration or scope of services needed.
- PACE differs from other community-based services by providing coordination of **all** medical related services.

Growing PACE Access in North Dakota

- The PACE model is centered on the belief that it is better for the well-being of seniors with chronic care needs to be served in their own homes whenever possible. Therefore, it is a ND Medicaid goal to grow PACE access, so that PACE services are an option for more members and becomes available in more service areas across our state.

- To achieve this goal, ND Medicaid has launched an effort to actively seeking more PACE providers in the state.

- To date, I have presented, at two MMAC meetings, as well as having held meetings with members of the Hospital Association and Long-Term Care Association. A potential PACE provider does not need to be a Hospital or LTC entity, but we felt this was a good place to start as these providers were more likely to know other entities that might be interested or have a facility to use as required day center or have current staff, they could share with a PACE program. These entities also have a basic understanding of federal and state regulation for similar programs.

Growing PACE Access in North Dakota

- We will reach out to any entity that expresses interest or has related questions.
- We will be holding face-to-face meetings with potential PACE providers across the state in the next couple months, August and September. I am scheduling meetings in Watford City, Bismarck, Fargo and Grand Forks.
- Tonight, I want give information that will answer questions already posed by potential providers and to guide potential providers to locations where they will find more information that will needed.

Required IDT

Interdisciplinary Team (IDT): As I outlined on slide 5, there is a requirement to have an 11 member IDT. Regulations have loosened over the years so be encouraged if you were familiar with past regulation.

The Interdisciplinary team (IDT) requirements found in the federal regulation (CFR 460.102) now reads:

"One individual may fill two separate roles on the interdisciplinary team where the individual meets applicable state licensure requirements and is qualified to fill the two roles and able to provide appropriate care to meet the needs of participants."

I have listed the required IDT roles and put a red star by each that has a state license requirement. So those who don't have a license required, can be filled by any of the licensed IDT members as long as no one is acting in more than two roles and all six licensed roles have the proper licensure. So, 6 IDT members are allowed to fill the 11 IDT roles.

(1) Primary care provider. *
(2) Registered nurse.*
(3) Master's-level social worker.*
(4) Physical therapist.*
(5) Occupational therapist.*
(6) Recreational therapist or activity coordinator. No license required
(7) Dietitian.*
(8) PACE center manager. No license required
(9) Home care coordinator. No license required
(10) Personal care attendant or his or her representative. *CNA, Nurse could fill in but no one else.
(11) Driver or his or her representative. No license required other than a valid ND driver's license.

Required Day Center

Day Center: We have validated with CMS that the required day center can be an existing building or wing of a building that is being used for other purposes such as a skilled nursing facility, as long as it meets regulation and has the required space for the number of occupants.

Regulation for the day center are similar to other healthcare facilities like a skilled nursing facility or a clinic.

Seed Money

The American Rescue Plan Act includes a provision for additional HCBS enhanced FMAP dollars that can be used for one-time investments. DHS has requested seed funds as part of those federal dollars that can be given to providers who agree to start a PACE program site. The approval of those funds, and the exact dollar amount, are subject to CMS approval. DHS will communicate information on these potential funds to interested providers.

Feasibility Study and Letter of Intent

- When an entity expresses interest in becoming a PACE provider, they will be asked to submit a feasibility study for the state to review. This will need to include zip codes of the proposed service area. When choosing a service area, there is no milage limitation imposed but the rule of thumb should be that the furthest point from the day center should be no further than you would want your elderly loved one to have to travel to reach their main source of healthcare.

- Once the feasibility study is approved, a letter of intent will be completed. Letters of intent will be due to the state by July of 2022.

- When the feasibility study and letter of intent have been approved by the State the potential PACE provider would begin the CMS application. I, as the current PACE administrator, would then begin the State Readiness Review (SRR) form that is my review of the day center and PACE program. This readiness review must be submitted to CMS at the time the PACE application is submitted.

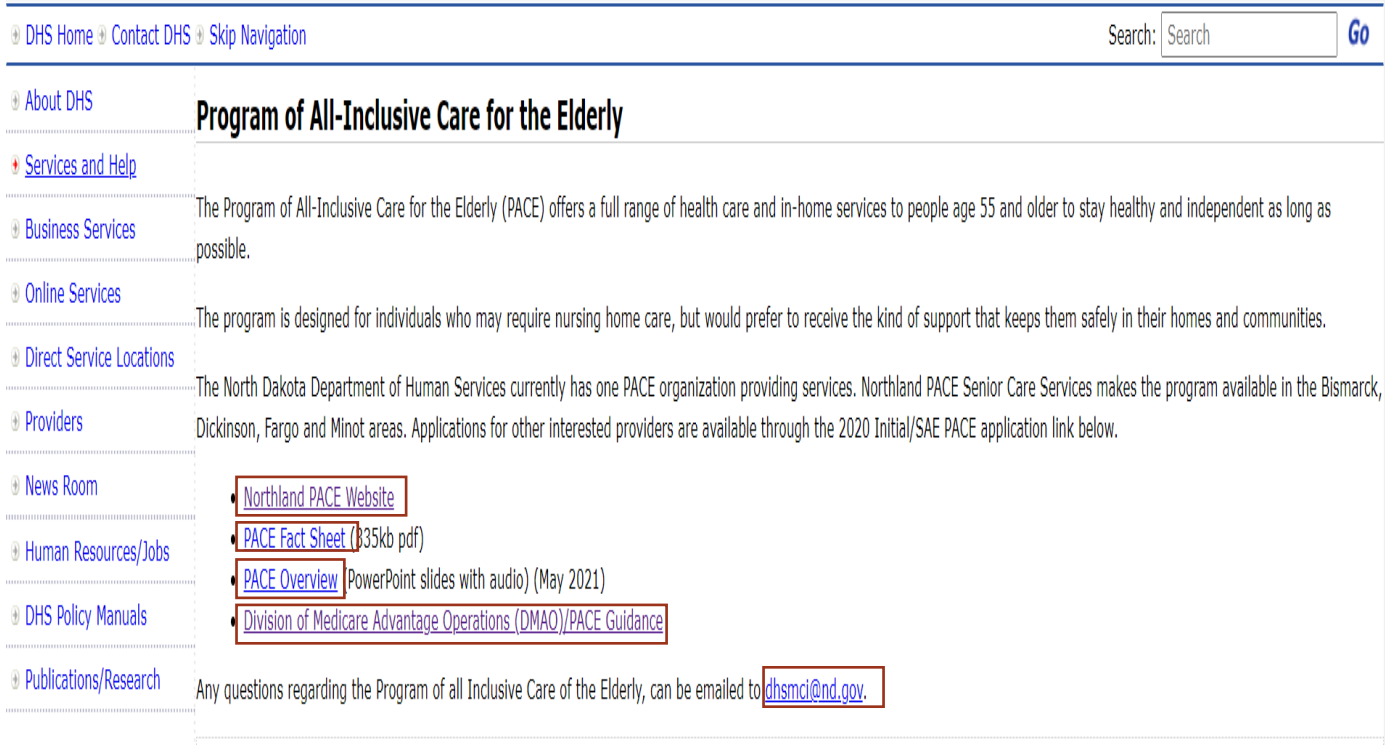
More Information

If you are looking for more information on PACE, you can go to our North Dakota PACE webpage and there you will find links to helpful information. The link to the webpage is listed here:

http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/pace.html.

Links you will find:

- Northland PACE Website
- PACE Fact Sheet
- PACE Overview
- DMAO/PACE Guidance portal, a CMS web site for PACE provider applications and other PACE information for individuals who are inquiring about what is needed to become a PACE provider.
- The DHS inbox where further questions about PACE can be sent.



DHS Home | Contact DHS | Skip Navigation

Search: Search Go

- About DHS
- Services and Help
- Business Services
- Online Services
- Direct Service Locations
- Providers
- News Room
- Human Resources/Jobs
- DHS Policy Manuals
- Publications/Research

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) offers a full range of health care and in-home services to people age 55 and older to stay healthy and independent as long as possible.

The program is designed for individuals who may require nursing home care, but would prefer to receive the kind of support that keeps them safely in their homes and communities.

The North Dakota Department of Human Services currently has one PACE organization providing services. Northland PACE Senior Care Services makes the program available in the Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo and Minot areas. Applications for other interested providers are available through the 2020 Initial/SAE PACE application link below.

- Northland PACE Website
- PACE Fact Sheet (335kb pdf)
- PACE Overview (PowerPoint slides with audio) (May 2021)
- Division of Medicare Advantage Operations (DMAO)/PACE Guidance

Any questions regarding the Program of all Inclusive Care of the Elderly, can be emailed to dhsmci@nd.gov.

DMAO Portal

Guidance resources for Division of Medicare Advantage Operations (DMAO)
Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

Search FAQs

DMAO Portal

Guidance

CMS guidance documents related to PACE.

Questions & Answers

Answers to previously asked questions.

Resources

Resources if your questions do not relate to PACE.

Please review the available guidance documents and the resources below that may answer your question.

CY 2020 Advance Notice and Call Letter April 1, 2019

2018 PACE Application Guidance and Training Announcement

Overview of the PACE Application Process_February 7, 2018

HPMS ePace_Application_Training_February 7, 2018

PACE Regulation

PACE Manual System

NP and CB PCP Waiver Checklist_April 17, 2015

New Quarterly Submission Process of Waivers for PACE Organizations_October 30, 2017

PACE Waiver Memo_April, 2015

Clarification on the Requirements for Alternative Care Settings in the PACE_June 30, 2016

National PACE Association (NPA)

The National PACE Association(NPA), National PACE Association | (npaonline.org), is a great resource as they provide assistance to members at three different levels:

1. Inquiring about PACE
2. Potential providers in the process of applying to become a PACE provider
3. Currently active PACE providers

I have been told that NPA is going to be the best source of guidance to complete the application, set up the operations and assist in financially modeling of a new PACE program. NPA staff are eager to help as expanding PACE across the nation is a goal of the association.

If you know of any entity that is considering becoming a PACE provider, please share this information with them and direct them to the DHS inbox dhsmci@nd.gov for any further questions they may have. We would be glad to assist them.

- Thank you for your time tonight.
- These slides will be posted to the DHS website at http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/provider-training.html.
- I would be happy to answer any questions…
- If you think of questions later remember that you can send the to the DHS inbox on the PACE website.