

PODCAST EPISODE • MAY 2025

# Stronger Together: North Dakota Medicaid and Families Partnering for Impact

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**W**hen Medicaid agencies partner with families, it brings together two essential perspectives: state officials who understand the policies and processes behind the programs, and families who offer on-the-ground insight into navigating those programs. This episode of the *Medicaid Leadership Exchange* podcast explores North Dakota's *Cross-Disability Advisory Council* — a unique partnership between agency staff and parents working together to improve programs for children with disabilities and their families. The episode highlights the value each unique perspective brings in shaping more responsive, effective Medicaid programs.

**“We need to tell our stories because the state will listen — they have listened.”**

— Erin Peterson, parent advocate and member

The conversation features perspectives from a North Dakota Medicaid leader and parent advocate:

- **Katherine “Kat” Barchenger**, Children’s Waiver Administrator, Medical Services Division, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
- **Erin Peterson**, parent advocate and member, North Dakota Cross-Disability Advisory Council

The episode is hosted by **Mark Larson**, former Vermont Medicaid director and senior vice president, Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), and **Jami Snyder**, former Arizona and Texas Medicaid director and president and CEO, JSN Strategies. The [Medicaid Leadership Exchange](#) podcast explores priority topics for Medicaid leaders. It is developed in partnership by the National Association of Medicaid Directors and CHCS through support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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## Featured in this episode:



**Mark Larson**, former Vermont Medicaid director and senior vice president, Leadership and Capacity Building, CHCS



**Jami Snyder**, former Arizona and Texas Medicaid director and president and CEO, JSN Strategies.



**Katherine "Kat" Barchenger**, Children's Waiver Administrator, Medical Services Division, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services



**Erin Peterson**, parent advocate and member, North Dakota Cross-Disability Advisory Council