What is MACPAC currently doing to ensure that the Commission is a credible and trusted source of information? (examples we have heard include, managing the commission and commissioners, establishing and maintaining strong relationships, producing varied and impactful publications and materials, etc.)

In addition to this:

1. Media outreach
2. Email marketing
3. Web site
4. Social media

2. Which of these efforts do you feel is having the greatest impact?

When our publications or topic areas have a news value that is amplified by press and social media, and then gains Congressional attention (or this is happening in tandem), we can see policy change. Sometimes, the timeframe is long between when we make a recommendation and when a change would occur as a result. I think some of our 2020/2021 work on postpartum coverage and estate recovery are great examples of that. They are timely, and have a long shelf life that is fueled way beyond the publication date. But one cannot always control for that. Some of this depends on the appetite of Congress, etc.

3. Is there anything the agency is doing today to establish itself as a credible and trusted source of information that does not feel like it is having a strong impact? Is there anything the Commission should consider not continuing?

We produce many issue briefs and content in general. But the Commission should always reflect on the highest and best use of MACPAC’s time. And while writing comment letters might be the price of doing business, I wonder if all of them are necessary. I’m sure they do inform policy, and there are some that are absolute must dos. But I sometimes wonder if that’s applicable to all of them.

1. If you could dream big, what areas of work or focused attention would MACPAC strengthen or start new in the next three years?

I’d like to see more direct Congressional briefings that are a bit bigger in scope than what we currently do. This might involve partnering with another organization on an educational series. MACPAC is already underway with some Medicaid 101 content. There’s probably more we can do to get directly to state policymakers.