



# MEMO

**Date:** August 31, 2023  
**To:** External  
**From:** Sick Cells

RE: August 2023 Policy Memo

---

This month's highlights include a presentation for HRSA and a meeting with CMMI.

1. Sick Cells Co-Founder & President, Ashley Valentine, **presented on community collaborations to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**. Presentation highlights included:
  - a. Sick Cells' policy and government affairs work
  - b. Collaborative efforts across the SCD community
  - c. Cross-industry partnerships centered on improving the lives of those living with SCD
2. Sick Cells **met with staff from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)** to provide feedback on the [Cell & Gene Therapy \(CGT\) Access Model](#). Comments centered around:
  - a. Capturing patient-reported outcomes
  - b. Beneficiary engagement in model design & evaluation
  - c. Roles of CBOs in patient education and access to care
3. Sick Cells says goodbye to Emma Andelson, our Senior Program Manager (Government Affairs & External Relations). For future correspondence on policy or government affairs topics, please contact Mariah Scott (Research Coordinator) at [mscott@sickcells.org](mailto:mscott@sickcells.org)

## State Highlights

1. New York | [A 2609](#) | State advising on sickle cell disease
  - a. Directs the minority health council to advise the Commissioner of Health regarding sickle cell disease
  - b. Encourages the increased information and communication about sickle cell disease screening and detection
  - c. **Passed the Senate**

**See you in September!**