

Arkansas Health And Opportunity for Me (ARHOME) Program – Zoom Public Hearing Transcript

05/05/2023 at 11:00 AM CST

Mac Golden: Welcome to the public hearing on a proposed amendment to our Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Project, Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me, also known as ARHOME. Nell Smith, the assistant director of Division of Medical Services, will be reading the notice with the details of the amendment. Then we will open the floor for public comments. If an attendee wishes to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand, chat, or Q.A. feature on Zoom, if you would like to make a comment. If you are attending the meeting in person, please let Ms. Smith know and you will be allowed to make a public comment.

Please remember this is not question and answer session. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website, after the public comment period concludes. If you have any questions, or you need a copy of a published rule, notice or any other information please email ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov. Ms. Smith will now read the notice.

Ms. Nell Smith: Hi! Good morning. My name is Nell Smith, and I am in Rogers [Arkansas] at Mercy Hospital, and I first want to thank Jeanna Goldman and the Mercy System for allowing us to hold our public hearing both via Zoom and here in person in Rogers. So, I'm going to read the Abbreviated Public Notice.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services (DMS), is providing public notice of its intent to submit to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) a written request to amend the Medicaid Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me (ARHOME) Demonstration Project (Waiver) and to hold public hearings to receive comments on the amendments to the Demonstration.

In accordance with 42 §CFR 431.408, this notice provides a summary of the waiver amendment request and serves to formally open the 30-day public comment period, which will begin on April 23, 2023, and conclude on May 23, 2023.

Specifically, DHS seeks public comment on its amendment request to include the following enhancements to the current ARHOME demonstration:

- 1) **Opportunities for Success Initiative.** The proposed amendment will provide enhanced access to opportunities to Medicaid beneficiaries, including focused care coordination services from a Success Coach to beneficiaries who are not progressing toward improved health and economic independence. Individuals who are unemployed and are not "on track" will be assigned a Success Coach. Success Coaches also will be assigned to individuals who are "underemployed" and have been enrolled in a QHP for 24 months and to individuals who are employed and have been enrolled in a QHP for 36 months. Success Coaches will evaluate the needs of the individuals they serve, including the person's health related social needs, to develop an individualized Action Plan. Individuals who do not engage in their health or the multiple opportunities available to them within three months of Success Coach assignment will transition from coverage through a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) to the Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS)

delivery system but will not lose Medicaid eligibility. Beneficiaries will not be required to report information or participation in opportunities to DHS. DHS will determine an individual's participation in their health improvement and economic independence activities and opportunities through data matching. Beneficiaries will not be required to participate in a minimum number of hours of activities per week/month/quarter as a result of this initiative.

- 2) **Expansion of Success Life360 HOME Eligibility.** The amendment proposes to expand the Success Life360 HOMEs up to age 59 for eligible beneficiaries to provide intensive care coordination services for this subset of ARHOME enrollees. Second, the state seeks to remove the "at risk of homelessness" limitation from the veteran eligibility criteria for Success Life360 HOMEs. This modification better reflects the state's intent to allow any veteran in need to have access to intensive care coordination services. DHS intends to implement the enhancements proposed in the amendment by January 1, 2024.

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The proposed amendment request and full public notice is available for public review on the DHS website at <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/rules/arhome/>.

In addition, the draft documents are also available for hard copy review at the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Rules Promulgation, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P.O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437.

During the public comment period, the public is invited to provide written comments to DHS via US postal service or electronic mail, as well as make comments verbally during hearings. DHS has already held one public hearing on April 27 in Little Rock. This constitutes the second of the two public hearings required.

Also, interested persons should submit all comments to DHS on the proposed amendment on or before May 23, 2023.

Comments can be submitted via email to ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov or by mail to Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Rules Promulgation, 2nd Floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437.

Please note that public comments submitted in response to this notice are considered public documents. A public comment, including the commenter's name and any personal information contained within the public comment, will be made publicly available.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated and managed and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color, or national origin.

If you need a copy of the draft amendment or public notice documents in a different format, such as large print or in hard copy, contact the Office of Rules Promulgation at 501-320-6428.

Mac Golden: Thank you, Ms. Smith. We will now open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a public comment, use Q.A., chat, or the raise hand feature.

Please let the record reflect we have three attendees via Zoom, and I believe we have two attendees in person. Is that correct, Ms. Smith?

Neil Smith: That's correct.

Mac Golden: Would anyone like to make a public comment? [Pause]

I'm not seeing anyone that wishes to make a public comment.

Barry, do you see any indication?

DHS: No, sir.

Mac Golden: All right, Ms. Smith, no one in person wishes to make a public comment?

Neil Smith: No, sir.

Mac Golden: Very well, thank you everyone for attending this public hearing. We will now consider the public hearing closed.

Neil Smith: Thank you.