

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

04/27/2023 at 9:00 AM CST

Good morning. This is the ARHOME, specially called, ARHOME Advisory Panel Meeting. This meeting is a special meeting of the advisory panel, so that we can conduct a public hearing for our opportunities for success initiative. I am standing in for Secretary Putnam, who may be outside the door but I would also like to recognize Dr. Sherise Childers, who is on the zoom, and I believe those are the; that's if we have another advisory panel member would love it if you recognize yourself now. [no response]

Okay, well we'll go ahead and get started with the public hearing. This is the first of two public hearings that we'll have. So, I'm just going to read into the record the abbreviated public notice, and then I'll open it up for public comments. And at the time if you would like to make a public comment, please raise your hand on the zoom screen, or here in person, and you'll be recognized to make a public comment. So, I'll go ahead with 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 did 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 a qualified health plan 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.

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. We also got a copy of the notice for the folks here in the room.

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 the two public hearings. The next one we will hold the next public hearing in Rogers at Mercy, Northwest, Arkansas Plaza that will be held on May 5, 2023 at 11:00 AM and we very much appreciate Mercy in allowing us the opportunity to hold a public hearing there.

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.

I will close and take any public comment. You can do that here in person or online. If you're online, if you would please use the raise hand function and we'll call on you.

Would anyone in the room would like to make a public comment or online? [no response]

With that we will close for public comments and hope to see all again on the second one.