

**Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Reimbursement – Zoom Public Hearing - 01/31/2024 at 10:00 A.M.**

**Mac Golden:** Good morning and welcome to a public hearing on a proposed rule regarding Children's Advocacy Center Reimbursement. Anita Castleberry, The Division of Medical Services, the Business Operation Manager will be announcing the notice of rulemaking. Then we will open the floor for public comments. Please utilize the raise hand feature via zoom. If you would like to make a public comment on the record. All official response to public comments will appear on the DHS Proposed Rule website after the public comments period concludes. Ms. Castleberry will now read the notice of rulemaking.

**Anita Castleberry:** Good morning, this is a notice of rulemaking for Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Reimbursement. The Department of Human Services announces for a public comment period of thirty (30) calendar days a notice of rulemaking for the following proposed rule under one or more of the following chapters, subchapters, or sections of the Arkansas Code: §§20-76-201, 20-77-107, and 25-10-129.

The Division of Medical Services (DMS) proposes a Medicaid State Plan Amendment and provider manual updates to the Nurse Practitioner and Physician's Provider Manuals implementing coverage and reimbursement of medical evaluations for suspected sexual abuse by Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) when performed in Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs). This service will benefit communities and the state by providing non-acute evaluations by specially trained and certified registered nurses to Medicaid-eligible children and youth. CACs may also provide assessments for other forms of suspected physical maltreatment when completed by a physician or advanced practice nurse practitioner. New sections regarding the above were added to the provider manuals. The state plan was updated similarly, and the coverage requirements and reimbursement methodology specify reimbursement will be limited to examinations needed to assess sexual assault, neglect or abuse of an individual under twenty-one (21) years of age. The projected annual cost of this change for the current state fiscal year is \$234,860.00 (State share \$65,761.00; Federal share \$169,099.00), and for the next state fiscal year \$939,439.00 (State share \$263,043.00, Federal share \$676,396.00). The proposed effective date of the rule is April 1, 2024.

The proposed rule is available for 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. You may also access and download the proposed rule at [ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules](https://ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules). This notice also shall be posted at the local office of the Division of County Operations (DCO) of DHS in every county in the state. Public comments must be submitted in writing at the above address or at the following email address: [ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov). All public comments must be received by DHS no later than February 12, 2024. 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 and may be seen by various people.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact the Office of Rules Promulgation at 501-320-6428 and that's the end of the notice.

**Mac Golden:** Thank you, Ms. Castleberry. Please let the record reflect that we have two attendees for today's public hearing. If any attendee would like to make a public comment at this time, please utilize the raise hand feature via zoom. I will pause briefly and give a moment for you to raise your hand.

It does not appear that any attendee wishes to make a public comment today we thank you for attending this public hearing and will now go off the record.