

**Coordinated Triage, Treatment, and Transport to Alternative Destination – Zoom Public Hearing
Transcript 11/8/23 @ 10:00 CST**

Mac Golden: Welcome to a public hearing on coordinated triage, treatment, and transport to alternative destinations. Anita Castleberry, the Division of Medical Services Business Operations Manager will be announcing the Notice of Rule Making. Then we will open the floor for public comments. Please utilize the raise hand feature via zoom if you would like to make a comment on the record. Official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rules website after the public comment period concludes. Ms. Castleberry will now read the notice of rulemaking.

Anita Castleberry: Notice of Rule Making.

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 Director of the Division of Medical Services (DMS) amends the Medicaid State Plan and Transportation Manual to implement Arkansas Act 480 of 2023. Act 480 provides for Medicaid coverage and reimbursement for licensed and enrolled ground ambulances to triage, treat, and transport a beneficiary to an alternative destination when a medically necessary service is coordinated by telemedicine with a physician or a behavioral health specialist as appropriate. Act 480 also allows for the licensed and enrolled Emergency Medical Personnel to treat the individual at the scene after consultation with a physician or behavioral health specialist. The service must be the result of the ambulance being dispatched to respond to a 9-1-1 call and assessment must not warrant an immediate need for transport to a hospital or emergency room. DMS shall request implementation of the coverage from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services effective January 1, 2024. New sections were added to the Transportation Manual. The proposed rule estimates a financial cost savings of \$(234,788.00) (\$169,047) of which is federal funds) for state fiscal year 2024, and \$(469,575.00) (\$338,094) of which is federal funds) for state fiscal year 2025.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 23-02, DHS repeals the following two rules as part of this promulgation: (1) DDS Policy 3010 – Human Rights Committee, and (2) DDS Policy 3011 – Behavior Management.

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. Public comments must be submitted in writing at the above address or at the following email address: ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov. All public comments must be received by DHS no later than November 12, 2023. 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.

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

Mac Golden: Thank you, Miss Castleberry. Please let the record reflect we have zero attendees for today's public hearing. As such there will be no public comments and we'll consider this hearing closed.