



MEDICAID CLIENT VOICE COUNCIL ENGAGE

Volume 5

The Medicaid Client Voice Council seeks to amplify voices and increase feedback from the clients of Medicaid-funded programs.



Kristi Putnam named by Governor-elect Sarah Huckabee Sanders as Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services.

What's BEING SAID

"I am excited about the opportunity to join Governor-elect Sanders' administration and take on the important work of human services. We will protect our fellow citizens while prioritizing reforms and identifying efficiencies and taxpayer savings, which is what I have done throughout my career. I strongly believe that access and opportunity empower people to live their best lives."

Kristi Putnam

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES LEADERSHIP



KRISTI PUTNAM
SECRETARY



MISCHA MARTIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES



JANET MANN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & STATE MEDICAID DIRECTOR



MARK WHITE
CHIEF OF STAFF



What's HAPPENING



END OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY (PHE) ONCE AGAIN DELAYED.

Division of County Operations Director Mary Franklin (pictured) shared the latest on the eventual unwinding of the ongoing national PHE related to COVID 19. An estimated 400,000 Arkansans have had Medicaid benefits extended during the PHE even though many no longer qualify. Franklin emphasized the importance for all Medicaid recipients to submit renewal packets. "Even before the pandemic...we were mailing those renewal packets out earlier than we did before. We mail those packets out about 90 days before the renewal actually has to be processed. And then we send reminder notices if we haven't received that packet. And some categories are mailed out 120 days ahead." Council member Reba Shipley (top photo) added "I really like how you guys have placed in there that if, say for instance, they no longer qualify for Medicaid or ARHOME you guys are going to help transition them hopefully to the marketplace to where they can at least continue some type of health insurance.

VIEW THE LAST MEETING



What's AHEAD

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 17th, 11 a.m.-2.p.m.

AFMC Campus



Acting-Chairperson Jerry Watson asks a question.

ACCESS ARKANSAS SEEKS TO MAKE PROCESSES QUICKER, EASIER FOR CLIENTS.

Access Arkansas is the DHS website that can be used to apply for benefits, make changes to a case, renew benefits when it is time, upload documents, and receive important notifications. A series of short, online instructional videos help make it easy to use. Visit humanservices.arkansas.gov/apply-for-services/ to learn more.

GIVE ME A BREAK: ARKANSAS LIFESPAN RESPIRE PROGRAM

In 2020, Arkansas received a 5-year, \$1.3 million dollar grant to help fund respite opportunities for qualifying families. DPSQA Deputy Director Sarah Schmidt informed Council members about the program. "We knew that caregivers in the state did not have out-of-pocket money to pay for respite care on their own. So through our grant we have developed a voucher program.

You can apply for our vouchers. They are \$300 (per quarter) and are paid directly to the caregiver so that you can go out and do what we call 'self-direct' and find your own respite provider." For more information, visit ar.gov/arlifespanspate.



Meet THE COUNCIL



ALISON CABALLERO
LITTLE ROCK



JERRY WATSON
PINE BLUFF



DEANDRIEA BASS-CARRIGAN
CONWAY



CASANDRA GLOVER
SEARCY



DARONDA WILLIAMS
PRESCOTT



BRADLEY LEDGERWOOD
CASH



AMANDA SANDERS
MOUNTAIN HOME



DEBRA ECKL
LITTLE ROCK



NAYTHAN DYKE
FORT SMITH



REBA SHIPLEY
JONESBORO



KETTY KONISKE
POCAHONTAS



MICHELE LAPPIN
WHITE COUNTY



LAURA CARTWRIGHT
FAYETTEVILLE



FRANK HELLMER
LITTLE ROCK



ERIKA BUENROSTRO
DEQUEEN