

Opportunities for Success Initiative – Zoom Public Hearing Transcript 08/13/2023 at 10:30 CST.

Mac Golden: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to public hearing on the Opportunities for Success Initiative. Rose Page, the Medicaid Program Manager for the Office of Program Policy, and Community Grants Services will announce the Notice of Rulemaking. After that we will open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand feature via Zoom and you will be recognized to give a public comment on the record. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the public comment period concludes. The Notice of Rulemaking will now be read by Ms. Page.

Rose Page: Good morning, everyone. Notice of Rulemaking. The Department of Human Services (DHS) 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, 23-61-1004, and 25-10-129.

The Director of the Division of County Operations amends Section F of the Medical Services Policy Manual to comply with Act 530 of the 93rd General Assembly, with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2024. Act 530 directs that DHS create and administer the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me Program.

The ARHOME Waiver has been amended to include the Opportunities Success Initiative. The Opportunities for Success Initiative works alongside Qualified Health Providers (QHPs) and Life360 HOMEs to encourage individuals in the Adult Expansion Group who are nineteen to fifty-nine (19-59) years of age to improve their health and reduce the effects of poverty on health outcomes through employment, education, training, volunteering, and other health related activities that enhance the quality of life. A new section was created to add this rule (Section MS F-200 to F-204).

An individual may demonstrate economic independence through showing progress in employment, education, training, volunteering, and other health related activities that enhance the quality of life. These opportunities will be targeted to individuals based on Federal Poverty Levels (FPL) and verified, when possible, through data matching and other means that do not require the individual to report activities. Individuals will be considered as “on track” towards achieving and sustaining independence based on their Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and placed in one (1) of three (3) Levels of Engagement. The three (3) Levels of Engagement are: Employed, Under-Employed, and Unemployed. Depending on the Level of Engagement and use of opportunities, individuals may be assigned a Success Coach to aid with care coordination and an individualized Action Plan. Each level will have different timelines that data matches will be performed to verify engagement and determine when Success Coaches will be assigned. These engagement opportunities will be verified by the eligibility system, data matching, or documented by the recipient’s Success Coach. Success Coaching is a focused care coordination service for individuals who could benefit from more formal coaching and support in accessing opportunities available through QHPs or other community organizations. Care coordination will consist of, but is not limited to, assessment of recipient’s health-related social needs (HRSNs) and the development of an individualized Action Plan. Individuals who were assigned a Success Coach and continue to not be “on track” after three (3) months without progress will be disenrolled from the QHP and transitioned back to the Fee-For-Service (FFS) delivery system. Transitioning from a QHP to FFS will be considered an adverse decision that may be appealed by the individual.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 23-02, DHS repeals the following two rules as part of this promulgation: (1) Publication 408 – Notice of Privacy Practices - Signature, and (2) APM – 905 Social Services Block Grant Program Manual.

The proposed rule estimates a financial impact of \$ \$5,391,265 (\$4,852,138 of which is federal funds) for state fiscal year (SYF) 2023 and \$3,913,987 (\$2,803,198 of which is federal funds) for SYF 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. 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 September 25, 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. This rule was signed by May Franklin, Director of the Division of County Operations.

Mac Golden: Thank you, Ms. Paige. Please let the record reflect, we have seven attendees for today's public hearing. If any attendee would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raised hand feature now in Zoom you will be recognizing to give a public comment on the record. I will pause for a moment to give you time. Okay, please let the record reflect that we have no one wishing to make a public comment today. Having said that, thank you for attending, and this will close this public hearing.