

Rehabilitative Hospital Manual – TEAMS Public Hearing Transcript 12/10/25 @ 10:05 CST

Mac Golden: It's 10:00. I just wanted to let everyone know that we've been transitioning to a TEAMS based public hearing, which does not have the full functionality that Zoom provides. The first public hearing we conducted, we had some technical issues with people logging in, so I'm going to give it a few more minutes and we will actually start the public hearing at 10:05. Thank you.

Good morning, everyone. I am Mac Golden with the DHS Office of Policy and Rules, and I welcome you to a public hearing on the rule regarding rehabilitative hospital manual. I will be announcing the notice of rulemaking and then I will open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a comment on the record, please use the raise hand feature. You'll be recognized to give your comment, and you can unmute yourself. All DHS responses to public comments will appear in the DHS proposed rule website after the comment period ends. I will now read the notice.

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, and 25-10-129. The projected effective date of the rule is March 1, 2026, and there is no fiscal impact.

The Division of Medical Services creates new sections of the Rehabilitative Hospital Provider Manual (20 Code of Arkansas Rules Part 643). Section 217.000 creates rules regarding Adult Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Hospitalization services. Section 217.100 establishes detailed criteria for admission to a Rehabilitative Hospital. These updates will allow a rehabilitative hospital to have an Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Unit allowing it to provide a high level of clinical intensity and supervision for clients requiring immediate intervention for psychiatric conditions. The proposed rule is available for review at the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Policy and Rules, 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 can 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 December 20, 2025. 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.

A public hearing will be held by remote access through Microsoft Teams. Public comments may be submitted at the hearing. The details for attending the Microsoft Teams hearing appear at ar.gov/dhspublichearings.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact the Office of Policy and Rules 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. Signed Elizabeth Pitman, Director of the Division of Medical Services.

Please let the record reflect we have eleven people for today's public hearing. If any person would like to make a public comment at this time, please use the raise hand feature and you will be recognized. I'll pause for ten seconds.

It does not appear that anyone wishes to make a public comment today.

We thank everyone for attending this hearing. We will now go off the record.