

Transition of Dental Services – Zoom Public Hearing Transcript 8/7/24 @ 10:00 CST

Mac Golden: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to a public hearing on a rule regarding transition of dental services. The Notice of Rulemaking will be read, and 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. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the public comment period concludes.

I will now read the notice of rulemaking.

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: §§ 25-10-129, 20-76-201, and 20-77-107. The proposed effective date of the rule is November 1, 2024.

The Director of the Division of Medical Services (DMS) amends the Arkansas Medicaid Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan. After careful consideration of dental service utilization, total program cost, and a holistic, efficient, and sustainable Medicaid delivery system for all Arkansans, Arkansas Medicaid will end the Healthy Smiles Dental Managed Care program and transition to Fee-for-Service (FFS) dental services as they existed prior to creation of Healthy Smiles. This rule amends the CHIP State Plan to reflect the new FFS program. There is no fiscal impact.

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 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 August 17, 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 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 Division of Medical Services

If anyone would like to make a public comment at this time, please utilize the raise hand feature.

Please let the record reflect we have eighteen attendees for today's public hearing. I'll pause for a second to give everyone an opportunity to use the raise hand feature.

Barry it looks like we have someone that would like to make a public comment. Well, I take that back.

Would anyone like to make a public comment today?

Very well, looks like no one wishes to make a public comment today. If you do wish to make a public comment prior to August 17th or by August 17th you can email our office at ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov.

We thank you for attending this public hearing, and we will go off the record.