

MINUTES

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

1:00 PM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; Chase Flippo, Vice Chair; Ben Gilmore, Kim Hammer, Bart Hester, Dan Sullivan, and David Wallace; Representatives Jack Ladyman, Chair; Deborah Ferguson, Vice Chair; Fred Allen, Justin Boyd, Joe Cloud, Bruce Coleman, Jim Dotson, Jon Eubanks, Jack Fortner, Justin Gonzales, Josh Miller, John Payton, Clint Penzo, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, and Carlton Wing

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Jonathan Dismang, Trent Garner, Mark Johnson, Missy Irvin, Greg Leding, and Jason Rapert; Representatives Mark Berry, Stan Berry, Cameron Cooper, Gary Deffenbaugh, Denise Ennett, Kenneth Ferguson, Jimmy Gazaway, Steve Hollowell, Fredrick Love, David Ray, Johnny Rye, Jamie Scott, Keith Slape, and Dwight Tosh

Senator Bledsoe called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the June 7, 2021, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit C]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Discussion of the End of the Federal Public Health Emergency and Its Impact on Medicaid [Handout 1]

Mark White, Chief of Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs and Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services (DHS), discussed the ongoing federally declared public health emergency. Mary Franklin, Director of the Division of County Operations, DHS, explained the rolling process of removing ineligible beneficiaries once the public health emergency ends. Elizabeth Pittman, Director of Division of Medical Services, DHS, touched on the programs that did not receive an enhanced match rate during the emergency.

Discussion of the Implementation of the New Arkansas Integrated Eligibility System (ARIES) [Exhibit E]

Mary Franklin, Director of the Division of County Operations, DHS, stated that ARIES was implemented into all Arkansas counties and the pilot program for release two has been implemented as well. Staff and applicants are now able to access one mobile-friendly system rather than accessing information across multiple different systems.

Report of Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entities (PASSE) [Exhibits F1-F4]

Mark White, Chief of Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs and Chief of Staff, DHS; Mitch Morris, Chief Executive Officer, Empower Healthcare Solutions; Jason Miller, Plan President, Summit Community Care; John P. Ryan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas Total Care; and Jason Bearden, Chief Executive Officer, Care Source, discussed each of the individual PASSE models including the different services provided to beneficiaries.

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule [Exhibit G]

Mary Franklin, Director of the Division of County Operations, DHS, discussed the removal of vendor names from provider manuals.

Senator Bledsoe stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule [Exhibit H]

Mary Franklin, Director of the Division of County Operations, DHS, stated changes made in order to remain in line with national coding.

Senator Bledsoe stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

DRAFT