



MEDICAID CLIENT VOICE COUNCIL ENGAGE

Volume 11

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



"We did great things last year, so I'm really excited about what we're going to make a little better this year. I'm open to any ideas on how we can improve (Medicaid-related programs)."

Kristen Arnold, 2024 MCVC Chairperson

What's BEING SAID

"It really is true, having worked in Florida and Kentucky before coming to Arkansas, Medicaid is vastly different from state to state, and it's just really complicated. So, thank you for taking the time to learn it with us. We really do value this venue as a feedback mechanism for us. We get a lot of great suggestions."

Arkansas DHS Secretary Kristi Putnam



What's HAPPENING



NEW SPACE, NEW MEMBERS

The Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC) renovated the special events building on its Little Rock campus. Moving forward, in-person meetings of the Medicaid Client Voice Council will be held in this space, which features upgrades in audio and visual capabilities. Also, the MCVC welcomed six new members to replace some of the founding members who fulfilled their two-years of service.



New MCVC member Brandie Vaughter is elected Vice-Chairperson by her fellow Council members.



New MCVC member Kacie Kinchen shares a concern with DHS leadership as new MCVC member Rebecca Ledgerwood listens.

VIEW THE LAST MEETING



What's AHEAD

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

AFMC Campus

Amy Webb, Interim Deputy Director for the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, tells Council members about a waiver request.

REENTRY WAIVER REQUESTED

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is seeking permission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to use Medicaid monies to address gaps in health care coverage for Arkansans who have been incarcerated. If approved by CMS, the waiver would allow Medicaid to cover medically necessary services for eligible children and adults for 90 days after their initial incarceration in a county jail, state prison, or juvenile justice facility, and again beginning 90 days before their release. DHS is also requesting approval to use Medicaid funds to pay for services for adults 19 to 64 in Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD) for services in the first and last 90 days of their stay.



Rose Page, Assistant Deputy Director for the Division of County Operations Policy Unit, tells Council members about continuous eligibility for children.

CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN

Parents sometimes fear that if their income goes up, the Medicaid benefits they receive will go down or be lost. Continuous eligibility for children guarantees that once a family or child is approved for Medicaid, that coverage will continue uninterrupted for at least twelve months...even if household income later exceeds eligibility levels.

Meet THE COUNCIL



**KRISTEN ARNOLD
CONWAY**



**MICHELLE PEDRO
SPRINGDALE**



**BETTY RAIFORD
PINE BLUFF**



**BRITTANY GILMORE
DEQUEEN**



**YOLANDA TRAYLOR
LITTLE ROCK**



**GALE HOLLAWAY
HARDY**



**HEATHER HONAKER
LITTLE ROCK**



**ETANDRA DENTON
LITTLE ROCK**



**ANGELICA YANEZ
ROGERS**



**KEVIN HOOVER
GREENBRIER**



**REBECCA LEDGERWOOD
CASH**



**KACIE KINCEN
NORTH LITTLE ROCK**



**BRANDIE VAUGHTER
BENTON**



**VICTORIA TORRES
FORT SMITH**



**ERICA GRASER
FAYETTEVILLE**



**ALEXANDRIA BOONE
SHERWOOD**