

# Arkansas Medicaid Update



Janet Mann  
Deputy Secretary and Medicaid Director  
Arkansas Department of Human Services

October 12, 2023



# Arkansas Medicaid Update

## Key updates





- Medicaid Sustainability Review Process
- Unwinding the Public Health Emergency
- Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- Opportunities for Success



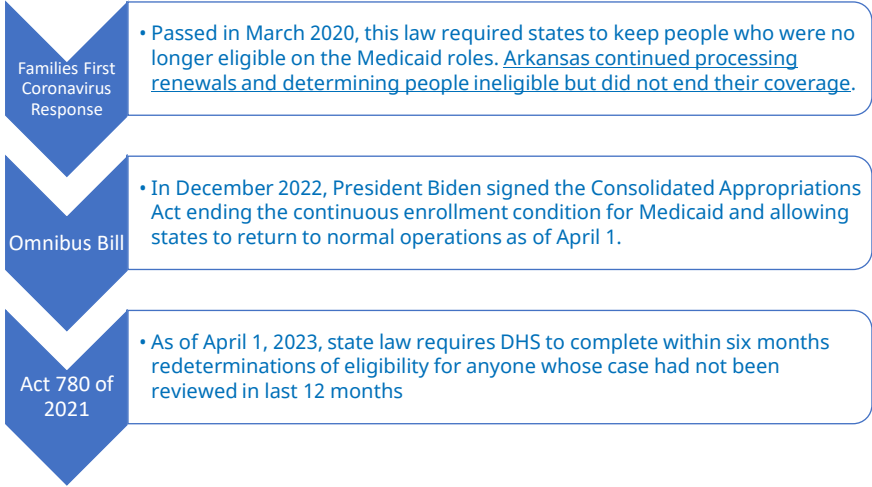
## Medicaid Sustainability Review Process

- Initiated a comprehensive systemwide review of the entire Medicaid program
- Goals are to identify efficiencies, gaps, and potential reforms that will serve both beneficiaries and taxpayers




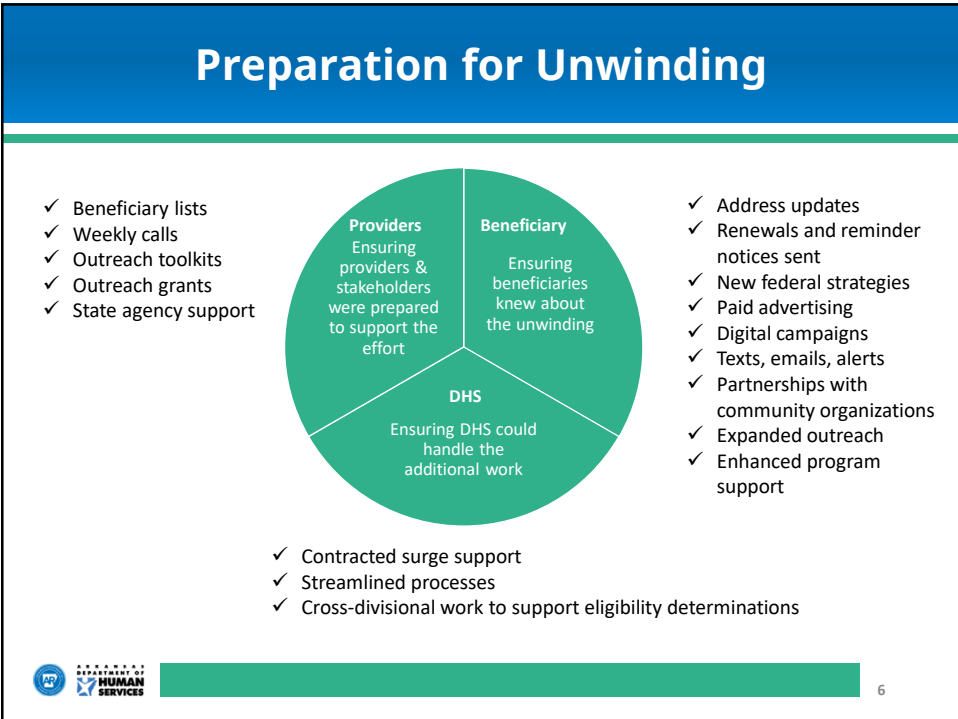
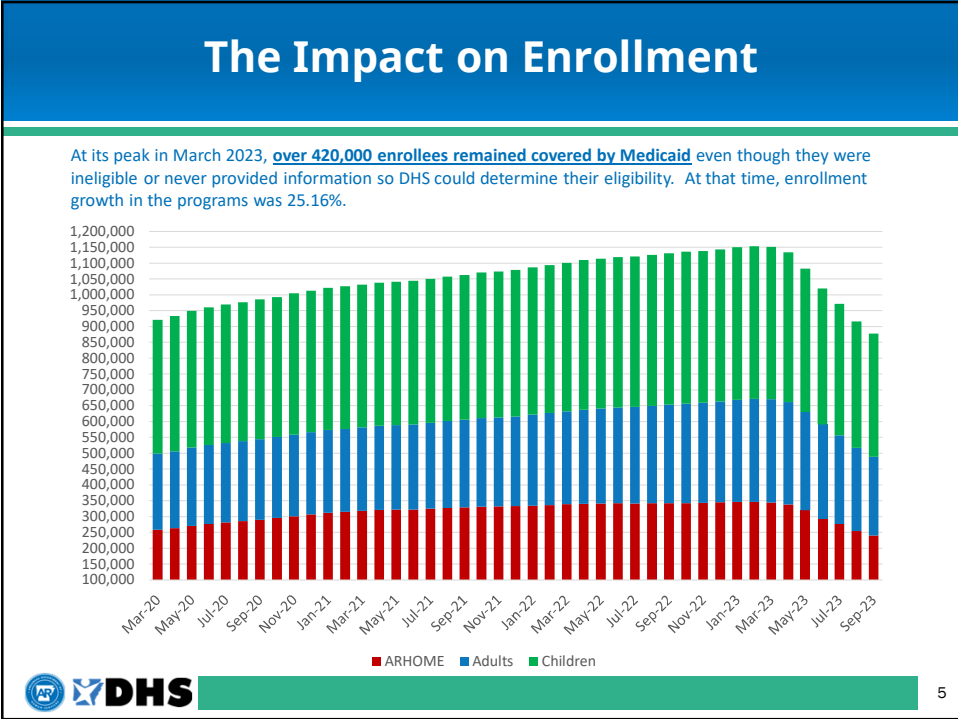
 3

## Unwinding the Public Health Emergency



- Families First Coronavirus Response**
  - Passed in March 2020, this law required states to keep people who were no longer eligible on the Medicaid rolls. [Arkansas continued processing renewals and determining people ineligible but did not end their coverage.](#)
- Omnibus Bill**
  - In December 2022, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act ending the continuous enrollment condition for Medicaid and allowing states to return to normal operations as of April 1.
- Act 780 of 2021**
  - As of April 1, 2023, state law requires DHS to complete within six months redeterminations of eligibility for anyone whose case had not been reviewed in last 12 months

 4



## Factors Impacting Outcomes

In Arkansas, DHS is not surprised by the number of people not responding-called procedural terminations - because many know they no longer are eligible and just aren't returning the forms.

- Arkansas is experiencing record-low unemployment and a rate significantly lower than when the pandemic began. In March 2020, the unemployment rate in Arkansas was 4.9 percent. In July 2023, it was 2.6 percent.
- Arkansas increased the minimum wage twice during the pandemic, likely resulting in many beneficiaries being over income.
- CMS has required some states to pause disenrollments or to reinstate some beneficiaries because of issues surrounding their processes, including those tied to procedural disenrollments. Arkansas is **not** one of these states.



## Eligibility Outcomes So Far

Month	Number due for renewal in the month who retained their coverage	Medicaid coverage ended in the month	
		Extended	Regular
April	61,236	44,667	28,135
May	39,848	43,385	25,453
June	50,366	47,426	30,042
July	50,609	39,967	42,312
August	50,662	34,961	37,558
<b>Total</b>	252,721	210,406	163,500



## Top Reasons for Closures for First Five Months of Unwinding

Category	Number of closures
Failed to return Renewal Form	189,023
Failed to return requested information	56,143
Household income is above limit for household size	39,343
Client requested closure	26,742
Did not meet requirement(s) for the program	16,562
No longer in the household	11,506
Unable to Locate - Returned Mail	10,141
Failed to cooperate with child support	8,812
No longer met the age requirement	8,626
Not a resident of Arkansas	1,928

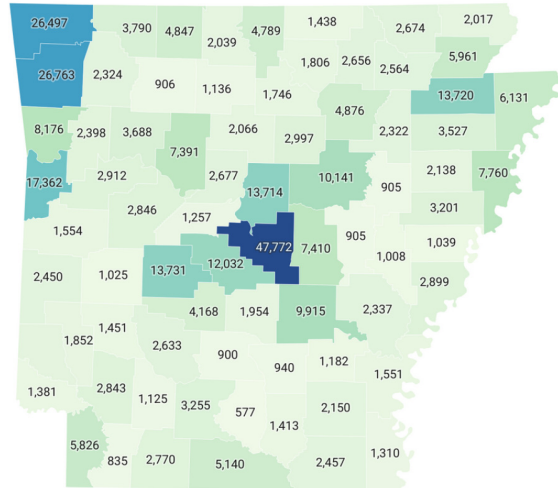


## Top Closures by Category of Assistance for First Five Months of Unwinding

Category	Number of closures
ARHOME	146,413
ARKids A	105,748
PCR	66,713
Newborn	18,658
ARKids B	8,585
QMB	7,810
SMB	4,503
QI-1	2,577
ARSeniors	2,041
Nursing Facility	1,849



## Closures by County for First Five Months of Unwinding



## If People Lost Coverage

Beneficiaries who lose coverage during the unwinding have options:

- If they failed to turn in requested information during a renewal, they can turn that in and get their coverage reinstated within 30 or 90 days depending on the category of assistance.
- If they believe they lost coverage in error, they can appeal the determination decision.
- If they are over income, they can apply for coverage at [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or seek out employer-sponsored coverage.



## Remaining Unwinding Eligibility Work

- The six-month unwinding concluded at the end of September.
- The processing of regular renewals and appeals will continue as part of the return to normal operations.
- Figures including the sixth and final month are now available on the DHS website.
- DHS will submit an unwinding report to the Arkansas Legislature outlining the results of the renewal efforts.



13

## Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

The new Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH) works to support programs and projects to address behavioral health issues across all DHS programs, determine need for new programs, and ensure that funding is used to meet the needs of Arkansans

Areas of focus include:

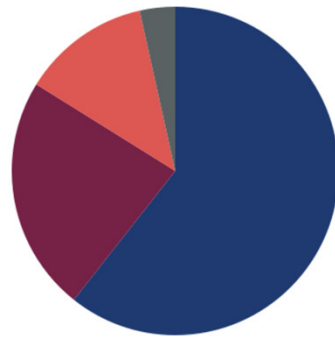
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services
- Mental Health Treatment Services
- Forensic Services
- State Drug Director
- Prevention and Early Intervention Services



14

## Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PATIENTS



By Payer (2019)	Individuals	Percentage of Total
Medicaid Programs	230,668	60.7%
Commercial	88,178	23.2%
Medicare	48,243	12.7%
Estimated Private Self-insured	~ 13,200	3.5%



## Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

- Is connected to most divisions of DHS but primarily in:
  - The Division of Aging Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) has been responsible for the administration of
  - The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Mental Health Block Grant and Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Block Grant,
  - SAMHSA discretionary grants
  - State General Revenue supported programs and projects
- AR Medicaid funds most of the mental health services provided in AR through
  - Traditional Medicaid
  - ARHOME
  - The PASSE program





## Opportunities for Success

The Opportunities for Success initiative is a workforce development program designed to create meaningful ways for ARHOME beneficiaries to move from government dependence on health insurance coverage to economic independence with access to private sector marketplace or employee-sponsored health insurance.



17

## Opportunities for Success

- Beneficiaries who choose not to participate in the workforce development component would remain covered under Medicaid, but they would be disenrolled from their qualified health plan and would receive coverage through traditional fee-for-service Medicaid.
- Meaningful work connects people to purpose – and through the pandemic we have seen negative mental health impacts from people feeling disconnected. DHS wants to make sure all Arkansans have access and opportunity to compete for meaningful careers with good pay and health coverage.



18

# Opportunities for Success

## How will engagement be measured?

For Employed Beneficiaries...

- Between 81% and 138% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Engaged in workforce for up to 36 months
- Immediate access to information about opportunities in their local community
- After 12 months of enrollment, proactive outreach from DHS
- After 36 months of enrollment, focused care coordination services via a Success Coach



# Opportunities for Success

## How will engagement be measured?

For Under-Employed Beneficiaries...

- Between 21% and 80% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Presumed to be engaged in workforce based on FPL for up to 24 months
- Immediate access to information about opportunities in their local community and proactive outreach with opportunities
- After 24 months of enrollment, unengaged beneficiaries will receive focused care coordination services via a Success Coach



## Opportunities for Success

### How will engagement be measured?

For Unemployed Beneficiaries...

- At or below 20% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Beneficiaries must show engagement via participation in local opportunities through a Life360 HOME
- Immediately and after 6 months of enrollment, beneficiaries will be given information about opportunities in their local community, proactive outreach with opportunities, and focused care coordination services via a Success Coach



DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN  
SERVICES

21

## Opportunities for Success

- DHS is awaiting approval from CMS. The waiver application was submitted on June 1.
- CMS determined the application was complete and opened it for a 30-day federal public comment period which closed on July 14, 2023.
- Eleven comments were submitted to CMS. On August 1, DHS submitted a response to the comments to CMS.



DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN  
SERVICES

22

# Arkansas Medicaid Update

## Questions



# Find Us On...



@ArkDHS



@arkansasdhs



@ARHumanServices



Arkansas Department  
of Human Services



ARHumanServices



[humanservices.arkansas.gov](http://humanservices.arkansas.gov)

**We Care. We Act. We Change Lives.**



**ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN  
SERVICES**

[humanservices.arkansas.gov](http://humanservices.arkansas.gov)