

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Services for Under 21
Zoom Public Hearing (07/09/25 @ 10:00 AM CST)

Mac Golden: Good morning and welcome to a public hearing regarding Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services for Under 21 years of age. 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 in Zoom. DHS responses to public comments will appear on 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 proposed effective date of the rule is October 1, 2025, and it has no fiscal impact.

This rule is pursuant to Act 636 of 2025. DHS creates two new manuals for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Providers. The first is a licensure manual that sets the minimum standards for community providers delivering services to enrolled beneficiaries who are admitted into a PRTF. The second is a companion Medicaid Provider Manual, "Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Services for Under Age 21". These new manuals necessitate removal of duplicative standards currently found within the "Inpatient Psychiatric Services for Under Age 21" provider manual.

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 July 21, 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.

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 by Melissa Weatherton, Director of the Medicaid Specialty Populations.

I will now open the floor for public comments. Please let the record reflect we have nineteen attendees for today's public hearing. If you would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand feature at this time and you'll be recognized to give your comment. I will pause ten seconds to give you time to raise your hand.

Barry, it looks like Jennifer Cagiano would like to give a public comment. You can unmute yourself and you are recognized to give your public comment on the record.

Jennifer Cagiano: Yes, this is Jenifer Cagiano. Thank you very much. So, we just noticed, and I work with CareSource. We noticed a discrepancy between the public websites and the memo in terms of the changes in the age for admission into a PRTF and the website. And I could put

that link if there's a chat available list, the age of 7, while the memo indicates an age of 10, and so we just wanted to confirm what is accurate.

Mac Golden: Thank you for that comment. I believe that the change has already been updated and once the file rule, once the revised rule is sent over to the legislature, you should see that update being made.

Jennifer Cagiano: Okay, thank you.

Mac Golden: Is there anyone else that would like to make a public comment today? Barry looks like Jessica Long would like to make a comment.

Jessica Long: Hello

Mac Golden: You're recognized to give your comment.

Jessica Long: Thank you very much on behalf of Neuro Restorative, which operates a psychiatric residential treatment facility at our Timber Ridge location in Benton, Arkansas. I would like to thank the Département of Human Service for this opportunity to offer comments on the proposed two new manuals regarding PRTFs in the State. We have great respect and appreciate the work of the office of long-term planning in creating these new rules, and would appreciate, just want to say that will be submitting written comments, asking for some points of clarification and refinement around ways that we can make providers better able to align the proposed rules with frontline practices, but will be submitting those in written form. But thank you for having time open hearing and thank you for this opportunity to provide this comment.

Mac Golden: Thank you so much. We look forward to receiving your written comments, and then we will take them under consideration, and we'll issue our responses once the public comment period ends. Thank you. Barry do see anyone else who wishes to give a public comment today?

Barry Rowland: No, sir.

Mac Golden: I'll pause a couple more seconds. We'd like to thank everyone for attending this public hearing, and we will now go off the record.