

Kentucky Beneficiary Advisory Council

March 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 9, 2026

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm ET

Location: Hybrid (via videoconference and in person at Department for Public Health Conference Suites, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, KY)

Call to Order

The meeting of the Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) was called to order by the Chair.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by the Secretary. A quorum was established.

A motion was made and seconded to approve January's meeting minutes with clarification on the committee's recommendation to change the policy on waiver participants not losing their waiver or participant-directed services (PDS) due to actions of an employee or representative. The motion passed.

DMS EVV Guidance

DMS provided clarification on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) procedures during power or Internet outages. Concerns were raised about agencies limiting clocking in and clocking out to home locations. The Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) reported there are allowances for an override or an exception that can be applied built into the EVV systems. *See Recommendations.*

DMS H.R. 1 Updates

The committee discussed the impact of H.R. 1 on Kentucky's Medicaid program. DMS presented a comprehensive overview of the upcoming changes. Key points included new community engagement requirements for most Medicaid expansion members aged 19-64 with exemptions for pregnant and postpartum individuals, parents of young or disabled dependents, and those who are 'medically frail', a term used in federal law. Additional eligibility changes were discussed, such as shortening renewal periods from twelve to six months, reducing retroactive eligibility, and the eligibility of lawfully present immigrants with Medicaid coverage.

DMS emphasized that, during this period of changes to renewal frequency and eligibility, it is critical to return paperwork, complete renewals, and respond to requests for information in a timely manner.

Additionally, the committee reviewed House Bill 2, proposed state legislation that may not align with the new federal requirements. This bill could introduce earlier cost-sharing, more frequent data verification, and rules on self-attestation for residency, age, and income.

DMS shared its H.R.1 implementation plan and timeline, which includes forming internal work groups, engaging stakeholders, and conducting system design among other activities. This work also includes creating clear, accessible communication materials, resources, and additional guidance for affected populations as updated policies are implemented.

BAC Discussion and Feedback

BAC members discussed concerns that new eligibility requirements and policy changes could create additional challenges for vulnerable populations, particularly individuals experiencing homelessness or those without stable income documentation.

Members emphasized the importance of ensuring communication materials are clear, accessible, and easy for beneficiaries to understand.

DMS shared that BAC members will be invited to participate in focus groups and communication improvement workgroups to help ensure materials are understandable and accessible to beneficiaries.

Recommendations, Questions, Feedback

DMS discussed the response to the committee's motion to change the policy on waiver participants not losing their waiver or participant-directed services (PDS) due to actions of an employee or representative. DMS clarified that while PDS may not be viable for all individuals, every effort is made to support its use before reverting to traditional services.

The committee followed up by expressing significant challenges with provider availability and workforce shortages, including difficulties finding agencies, high staff turnover, and insufficient training in the use of traditional services. Experiences were shared, illustrating the inadequacy of traditional services not meeting the individual needs of waiver participants-particularly in rural areas. Due to time limitations, the committee discussed saving traditional services workforce and delivery challenges as an agenda item for a future meeting.

DMS emphasized the importance of keeping meetings private to ensure a safe space for members to share concerns. Members were encouraged to focus on these issues at an upcoming meeting for DMS to better understand the challenges and discuss any recommendations the BAC may have for program improvement.

Recommendation

During the EVV Guidance agenda item discussion, a motion was made and seconded for the DMS to issue policy clarification to all agencies providing services under home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers that would outline the regulation for clocking in and clocking out within community spaces while working with waiver participants.

Additional Business

Members were encouraged to complete a recent survey and share feedback, including ideas for future discussion topics. The group stressed the value of real-world experiences to highlight policy gaps and thanked members for their engagement. Reminders about upcoming surveys and focus group opportunities were also shared.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.