

Kentucky Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) January Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 12, 2026

Time: 2:00 – 4:12 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

A roll call was conducted by the secretary. A quorum was established.

Chair Report

The Committee discussed the role of the BAC, including its advisory function to the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) and the importance of incorporating member and caregiver lived experience into Medicaid policy development and program administration.

The results of the feedback survey following the November meeting were discussed including the topics that have been proposed for inclusion on the agenda. Those topics included home and community based waivers, electronic visit verification, federal changes through H.R. 1, and access to services in schools.

Bylaws Change

The Committee reviewed a proposed amendment to the BAC bylaws to streamline the process for reporting excused absences. The amendment allows a member to notify the Chair, Vice Chair, *or* Secretary, rather than requiring notification to all three officers.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment. The motion passed unanimously. DMS will finalize and distribute the updated BAC bylaws.

Code for America Presentation

Representatives from Code for America presented on applying human centered design principles to improve public programs by including the voices of those who use them early in the development and design stages. The Committee discussed the use of data sources to determine eligibility without having to request information from an individual. There was discussion regarding the BAC's potential role in connecting with communities to help

identify vulnerable populations and improve awareness and understanding of program requirements.

H.R. 1 Updates

An update was provided on the H.R. 1 Rural Health Transformation Program and the recent notice of award. The state received funding in excess of the original request. This has required meeting with CMS and submitting an updated budget for approval. They are onboarding staff to support implementation, and planning for stakeholder engagement. The Committee was referred to a new website, www.ruralhealthplan.ky.gov, and to send questions to ruralhealthplan@ky.gov.

There was an update on the eligibility requirements in H.R.1 and what work is happening to date. The Committee discussed concerns about the lack of the necessary information from CMS to understand the requirements. There was a suggestion to include BAC members in any focus groups that may be used to help create a system that is easy to navigate, and that reaches vulnerable populations.

Waiver Waitlist Overview

The Committee heard an in-depth explanation about waitlists for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers.

Strategies for Improving Waitlist Communications

The Committee was unable to discuss this agenda topic due to running out of time. There was a suggestion for DMS to poll the members about interest in having a special meeting to allow more discussion.

Additional Business

Additional topics raised during discussion included Electronic Visit Verification and Michelle P Waiver policy. A motion was made and seconded 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 unanimously.

There was a question on whether the BAC is allowed to vote by email. DMS committed to researching and providing an answer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.
