



HFS

Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

JB Pritzker, Governor
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

401 S. Clinton St., Chicago, Illinois 60607
Telephone: +1 312-793-4792, TTY: +1 800-526-5812

Public Education Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, March 6th, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: The meeting was held virtually via Webex

Audience: Public Education Subcommittee (Pub Ed)

Pub Ed Members Present:

Chair (*)

*Nadeen Israel

Brittany Ward, Lurie Children's Hospital

Connie Schiele, HSTP

Edith Avila Olea, ICIRR

Kathy Chan, Cook County Health

Sherie Arriazola Martinez

Sue Vega, Alivio Medical Center

Chantel Bowen, SIU School of
Medicine

*Public Education Subcommittee Chair

Pub Ed Members Absent: None

None

State Staff Members Present:

Margaret Dunne

Jenna King

Crystal Snodgrass

Katherine (Kate) Yager

Dana Kelly

Kristin Hartsaw

Sara Bechtold-Medema

Avery Dale

Caroline Chapman

Stephani Becker

Delores McKinney

Jerome Beverly

Megan Clark

Jessica Pickens

Keshonna Lones

Jamie Munks

Sandra Pastore

Sarah Sugar

Scott Slater

Susan Lighty

Terri Kulhan

Geannette Wittendorf



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- I. **Call to Order:** Jenna King, Medicaid Management Analyst, called the meeting to order on Friday, March 6th, 2026, at 10:08 a.m. The meeting was held on the Webex Platform. Ms. King addressed housekeeping and ground rules for the meeting.
- II. **Housing Keeping Rules:** Jenna King, Medicaid Management Analyst, reviewed the guidelines for submitting comments and asking questions during the meeting, applicable to both the general public and subcommittee members
- III. **Roll Call of Subcommittee Members:** Nadeen Israel, Public Education Subcommittee Chair, facilitated the roll call of the subcommittee members. The quorum was confirmed.
- IV. **Introductions of HFS Staff Members:** Ms. King introduced the HFS Lead Admin Staff for the Pub Ed Subcommittee.
- V. **Review and Approval of November 14th, 2025, Meeting Minutes**
 - A. Motion: Nadeen Israel, Public Education Subcommittee Chair, moved approval of the meeting minutes. Connie Schiele, Subcommittee member, gave the first motion. Sue Vega, Subcommittee member, seconded the motion. No oppositions. Nadeen Israel obtained because she didn't attend the November 14th meeting. **Motion carried.**
- VI. **State Updates:** This complete presentation, including each section, can be referenced and reviewed on the HFS MAC website at the following link: [Presentation Decks | HFS \(illinois.gov\)](#)
 - A. **Leadership Updates:** Dana Kelly, HFS Chief of Staff, introduced this segment:
 - B. **Division of Medical Programs:** Keshonna Lones, Bureau Chief, Managed Care, introduced this segment:
 - I. **HCI Contract**

Provided an update on FIDE-SNP, which included information that HFS is currently undergoing a re-procurement process and has issued a publicly available Request for Proposals (RFP).
 - II. **FIDE-SNP**

Provided an update on the HCI contract, which included information that HFS is currently undergoing a re-procurement process and has issued a publicly available Request for Proposals (RFP). She also shared an overview of HFS's procurement strategy.



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III. Specialty Managed Care Plan for Youth in Care and Former Youth in Care: Sarah Sugar, Special Assistant of Managed Care, introduced this segment:

Provided an update on stakeholder engagement activities related to the YouthCare managed care program, including outreach to current and former youth in care, foster parents, caregivers, advocates, caseworkers, and other stakeholders who support youth in care

C. Eligibility Updates: Kate Yager, Administrator, Division of Eligibility, introduced this segment:

I. ATTC/VTTC

Provided an update on policy changes impacting the Asylum Applicant, Torture Victim, and Trafficking Victim programs, effective January 1, 2026

II. Medicaid Applications

Provided an update on Medicaid application data, which included for the fiscal year to date (FTYD), as well as information on appeals.

III. Redetermination Data

Provided an update on redetermination data, which included redetermination data categorized by status—closed, pending, and retained—as well as by county, race, ethnicity, and language spoken. Additional details can be found in the [Illinois Report Center at Report Center](#).

IV. Family Planning: Margaret Dunne, Division of Eligibility Program Analyst, introduced this segment:

Provided an update on the current family planning enrollment figures.

D. State-Based Marketplace: Stephani Becker, Deputy Administrator, State-Based Marketplace, introduced this

segment: provided an update on the State-Based Marketplace, including the launch of *Get Covered Illinois* on November 1, 2025, include information on open enrollment and new special enrollment periods.

E. New Policy/Modification: Crystal Snodgrass, Senior Public Service Administrator for Medical Eligibility Policy, introduced this segment:

provided an update regarding the new policies or policy modifications implemented between November 2025 and March 2026.



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F. DHS Updates: Sara Bechtold-Medema, DHS, Bureau Chief, Policy Development, introduced this segment:

Provided an update on the changes to the SNAP program under H.R.1 and its impact on the SNAP program, including work requirements, new rules for non-citizens, and 6-month redetermination.

G. HR1 Implementation: Caroline Chapman, Special Assistant for Eligibility Initiatives, introduced this segment: provided an update on H. R.1 implementation and its impact on the Medicaid program, including work requirements, new rules for non-citizens, and 6-month redetermination.

VII. Public Comments: Jenna King, Medicaid Management Analyst, introduced this segment:

A. No public comments.

VIII. Additional Business: Old and New: Nadeen Israel, Public Education Subcommittee Chair, introduced this segment:

A. Items for Future Discussion:

Nadeen Israel, Public Education Subcommittee Chair, made the following request:

- Nadeen Israel: Requested that HFS ensure eligibility and redetermination data in the *Reports Center* section of the HFS website are regularly updated.

B. HFS Announcements: Jenna King, Medicaid Management Analyst, introduced this segment:

I. Pub Ed Resources:

Ms. King provided updates on Pub Ed subcommittee resources.

II. Updates to the 2026 Meeting Schedule:

Ms. King provided an update that the 2026 meeting dates will be posted on the HFS website soon.

C. Announcements: Jenna King, Medicaid Management Analyst, introduced this segment: Ms. King reminded the subcommittee members to complete their ethics training.

IX. Concluding Directives and Wrap-Up: This was facilitated by Nadeen Israel, Public Education Subcommittee Chair.

X. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 p.m.

A. Motion Nadeen Israel, Public Education Subcommittee Chair, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Edith Avila Olea, Subcommittee member, gave the first motion. Connie Schiele, Subcommittee member, seconded. There was no opposition, and there were no abstentions. **The Motion was**



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Carried.