



**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, August 22, 2025, 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, AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Kathy Chan, Cook County Health

Michelle Herron, Designee for Nancy Aguirre, Community and Residential Services  
Authority

Edith Avila Olea, ICIRR

Sue Vega, Alivio Medical Center

Chantel Bowen, SIU School of Medicine

Connie Schiele, HSTP

Edith Avila Olea, ICIRR

Brittany Ward, Lurie Children's Hospital

Sherie Arriazola Martinez

#### **Pub Ed Members Absent:**

#### **State Staff Members Present:**

Margaret Dunne

Melishia Bansa

Jenna King

Crystal Snodgrass

Jacqueline (Jac) Myers

Katherine (Kate) Yager

Kristin Hartsaw

Sara Bechtold-Medema

Jean Davis

Delores McKinney

Dr. Arvind Goyal

Jennifer Sauer

Megan Clark

Michael Welton

Stephani Becker

Thea Kachoris-Flores

Aileen Kim

Susie Lighty

Emma Watters-Reardon

Geannette Wittendorf



**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**

- I. Call to Order:** Melishia Bansa, Deputy Director of Community Outreach | Boards and Commissions, called the meeting to order on Friday, August 22, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. The meeting was held on the WebEx Platform. Ms. Bansa addressed housekeeping and ground rules for the meeting.
- II. Housing Keeping Rules:** Melishia Bansa, Deputy Director of Community Outreach | Boards and Commissions, 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:** Ms. Bansa, facilitated the roll call of the subcommittee members. The quorum was confirmed.
- IV. Introductions of HFS Staff Members:** Ms. Bansa, introduced HFS Lead Admin Staff for Pub Ed Subcommittee.
- V. Review and Approval of June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes**
  - A. Motion:** Nadeen Israel, Chair, moved approval of the meeting minutes. Connie Schiele, Subcommittee member gave the first motion. Kathy Chan, Subcommittee member seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. **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. Division of Medical Programs:**
    - I. No Updates**
  - B. Eligibility Updates: Jacqueline Myers, Bureau Chief, Eligibility Integrity, introduced this segment:**
    - I. Medicaid Applications**

This section includes data on Medicaid applications for the fiscal year to date (FTYD), as well as information on appeals.
    - II. Redetermination Data**

This section includes 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](#).



**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

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

This section provides data current family planning enrollment figures.

- C. State-Based Marketplace: Stephani Becker, Deputy Administrator  
State-Based Marketplace, introduced this segment:** Stephani Becker, Deputy Administrator, provided an update on the State-Based Marketplace and the upcoming launch of Get Covered Illinois on November 1, 2025.
- D. New Policy/Modification: Crystal Snodgrass, Senior Public Service  
Administrator for Medical Eligibility Policy, introduced this segment:** Crystal Snodgrass, Senior Public Service Administrator for Medical Eligibility Policy, provided an update noting that there were no new policies or policy modifications implemented between June 2025 and August 2025.
- E. IL Healthcare Transformation 1115 Waiver: Kristin Hartsaw, Special  
Assistant to the Director, Medical Policy and Thea Kachoris-Flores  
Special Assistant to the Director, Health Related Social Needs  
introduced this segment:** Kristin Hartsaw, Special Assistant to the Director, provided an update on the current status of the waiver and shared details on the implementation plan. Thea Kachoris-Flores, Special Assistant to the Director, discussed the federal changes that will impact the waiver.
- F. Leadership Updates: Emma Watters- Reardon, Policy Director  
introduced this segment:** Emma Watters-Reardon, Policy Director, provided an update on changes to Medicaid in H. R.1 and its impact on the Medicaid program.
- G. DHS Updates: Sara Bechtold-Medema ,DHS, Bureau Chief Policy  
Development introduced this segment:** Sara Bechtold-Medema, Bureau Chief of Policy Development at DHS, provided an update on the changes to the SNAP program under H.R. 1 and their impact on SNAP operations.



**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

**VII. Public Comments: Melishia Bansa, Deputy Director of Community Outreach| Board and Commissions, introduced this segment:**

**A.** No public comments.

**VIII. Additional Business: Old and New: Nadeen Israel, Chair, introduced this segment:**

**A. Items for Future Discussion:**

Nadeen Israel, Chair, suggested the following:

- Future meetings include data on Medicaid eligibility and redetermination, specifically regarding the application backlog and processing timelines.
- Requested future discussion regarding the potential impact of the Trump Administration on the Medicaid program.

Subcommittee members requested the following:

- Department share notices in advance for Pub Ed Subcommittee review and ensure that eligibility and redetermination data is regularly updated on the Report Center section of the HFS website.

**B. HFS Announcements: Melishia Bansa, Deputy Director of Community Outreach | Boards and Commissions, introduced this segment:**

**I. Pub Ed Resources:**

Ms. Bansa provided updates on Pub Ed subcommittee resources.

**II. Updates to the 2025 Meeting Schedule:**

Ms. Bansa provided an update regarding the 2025 Quarterly Meeting Dates.

**C. Announcements: Melishia Bansa, Deputy Director of Community Outreach | Boards and Commissions , introduced this segment:** Ms. Bansa, reminded the subcommittee members to complete their ethics training.

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

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

**A. Motion:** Nadeen Israel, Chair, moved a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sue Vega, Subcommittee member, gave the first motion. Kathy Chan,



**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

Subcommittee member seconded. There was no opposition, and there were no abstentions. **The Motion was Carried.**