

Managed Care 1

MEH

2/28 (Fri AM/ Noon)

Arkansas's transition to a managed care system for treating the state's mentally ill went live just after midnight. Three companies are now responsible for overseeing coverage to about 43-thousand people. The change is the second phase of an initiative designed to reduce the cost of treating Medicaid recipients. While service providers and advocates for the mentally ill have been fearing a loss in services or delays in being reimbursed for treatment, Cindy Gillespie, director of the Department of Human Services, told KUAR in an interview yesterday (Thurs) that this will be an improvement.

News01 0:25 "...place through this."

Gillespie also says a command center is now staffed at DHS to take questions and assist providers and recipients. A judge Wednesday blocked a request by a group of residential care facilities to delay the transition.

Managed Care 2

MEH

2/28 (Fri AM/ Noon)

Arkansas officials are offering reassurances that the state is ready as a transition takes place this (Fri) morning to a managed care system for treating the mentally ill. It's the second phase of an initiative approved by the legislature designed to cut the cost of treating those with serious mental illness or developmental disabilities. Cindy Gillespie, director of the Department of Human Services, told KUAR yesterday (Thurs) that a command center is ready to address any problems from pharmacies, service providers or recipients.

News02 0:21 "...partners with us."

PASSEs, or Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entities, are the three companies now responsible for overseeing coverage to about 43-thousand people. Some advocates for the mentally ill and service providers have expressed doubt about whether the state is indeed prepared. A judge Wednesday turned down a request for a temporary restraining order, but said the plaintiff in a lawsuit can keep the case open and return to court if there are problems in the coming months.