KENTUCKY HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

April 02, 2026

Board Members in Attendance: Tricia Okeson by proxy for Secretary Steven Stack, Shaun Orme by proxy for Sharon Clark, Harry Hayes, Mark Kleiner, Whitney Allen, Martha Mather and David Roode.

Quorum: There was a quorum. The minutes from February were adopted.

Updates and Reports:

- **State-Based Marketplace –** Deputy Secretary Tricia Okeson gave a warm welcome to everyone attending and congratulated them on a great job. David Verry states that in 2026 there have been declining enrollments compared to previous years. KHBE will be working on a survey that will be added to the end of when people disenroll, to inquire about the reason for disenrollment.

  There have been some concerns from consumers that the insurance networks are small. Sometimes, it's from a PPO to an HMO and we are advocating for them to work with their issuer to find the right plan and specialist for them.

  There has been a double influx of requests for Exceptional Special Enrollment since last year. We encourage them to go through the process and if their reason is valid then they can enroll. Tax Season is upon us and the mailing of 1095's are complete. David has a reminder for the Agents and kynectors in this meeting to remind their consumers to make sure their household income is up to date.

  There will be a shorter enrollment period this year and all enrollments will begin January 1, 2027. The new rules for immigration and Medicaid qualification will take effect October 1, 2026. Those same rules for QHP will take effect on January 1, 2027.

  David discussed the different ways of community engagement to satisfy the work requirements for Medicaid if they are implemented in the future. Some examples are going to school and caretaking for a relative. But as of now, there has been no change to work requirements for Medicaid.

  House Bill 2 recently passed and if anyone has any feedback that you think we should know, please feel free to send it to us.

- **kynector Outreach –** John Pasztor gave an overview of all the kynector outreach updates. There were around 1,500 total referrals, Agent referrals have doubled since the last update, and over 7,000 actions have been taken through applications and general inquiries. In closing, John displayed pictures of active kynectors that he wanted to highlight for their efforts.

- **Subcommittees**
    - **Behavioral Health Subcommittee –** Martha states that she wanted to give an update on 988. Over the past year there have been around 14,000 referrals to Mental Health services and 3,500 referred to other services like homeless shelters and food banks. She wanted to highlight the top five reasons people reach out needing services.

        1. Mood Issues
        2. Friend and Family issues
        3. Suicidality
        4. Loneliness
        5. Request for general information

        The behavioral health committee meets again on April 15, 2026.

    - **Outreach, Education and Enrollment Subcommittee –** Mark Kleiner stated that David already touched on major points in their meeting discussion, but he also wanted to mention that there are a lot of consumers that lost their subsidies, and he is surprised that the disenrollment numbers are not higher.

    - **Qualified Health Plan Subcommittee –** No update

Adjournment: The next meeting is June 4, 2026.