# KENTUCKY HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

## February 05, 2026

**Board Members in Attendance:** Tricia Okeson by proxy for Secretary Steven Stack, Sharon Clark, Harry Hayes, Rachel Roberts, Ryan Sadler, Priscilla Easterling by proxy for David Roode, John Mark Fones, and Mark Kleiner

**Quorum:** There was a quorum. The December minutes were adopted.

**Updates and Reports:**

- **State-Based Marketplace –** Open Enrollment has ended. It ended on time with 89,028 enrolled from November 1, 2025, through January 15, 2026. There was a 30 percent decrease in new enrollees. John Mark Fones asked if there was a way to use the Rural Health Transformation monies to break the data out into the different Medicaid regions to supplement and provide a benefit to help the consumers? Deputy Secretary Stack states that the monies are to improve rural health. However, it cannot go to provide the actual clinical services or supplement insurance. It's more focused on the systems. But there are some other ways that we can help via telehealth and other services. David Verry stated that he will follow up with John Mark Fones on the side by side of enrollments.

  The Fall Open Enrollment period started November 1st and ran through December 31st 2026, for January 1st coverage. Regarding special enrollment and exception special enrollment cases, we are reinforcing the reasons on what makes someone eligible. Additionally, the 1095's are currently being printed and mailed. There will be Pre-enrollment verification for Catastrophic Plan for ages 30 and older. And the non-binding letters of intent from various insurance carriers are already coming in.

  Ben Martin gave an overview of Plan Year 2026 Open Enrollment support efforts. There were five different support activities including ACA changes Office Hour, In-Person Training, Issuer Office Hours, Incident Tracker, and Office Hours. A total of 1,036 Agents and kynectors participated in the various support activities and there was 97% positive feedback on the In-Person Training section.

- **kynector Outreach –** John Pasztor shared updates on kynector outreach. A battery plant was shut down and 1,600 Kentuckians were left without jobs. There were twelve rapid response sessions that were attended by 558 displaced employees. The final day of affected employees is February 14, 2026.
  Recently, Six Open Enrollment debriefs were held for kynectors by the DHPO team. Topics at the debrief sessions included marketplace changes, exceptional enrollment changes and the kynector after action report tool (kAART) updates.

- **Subcommittees**
  - **Behavioral Health Subcommittee –** No Updates

  - **Outreach, Education and Enrollment Subcommittee –** Mark Kleiner gave an overview of the last meeting. They discussed the APTC issue of 90 days instead of 180 days and reasonable solutions. They discussed the challenges of some Agents who have a larger number of clients and how they can handle their unique situations.

  - **Qualified Health Plan Subcommittee –** Ryan Sadler gave a brief update stating that he wanted to commend the team on a great job with the seamless Open Enrollment and updates.

**Adjournment:**

**Next Meeting:** May 7, 2026