



1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Task Force

Wait List Management

August 23, 2021

Presenter

**Pam Smith, Division Director
Division of Community Alternatives**

The Wait for 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Services

Michelle P. Waiver (MPW) Waitlist Data

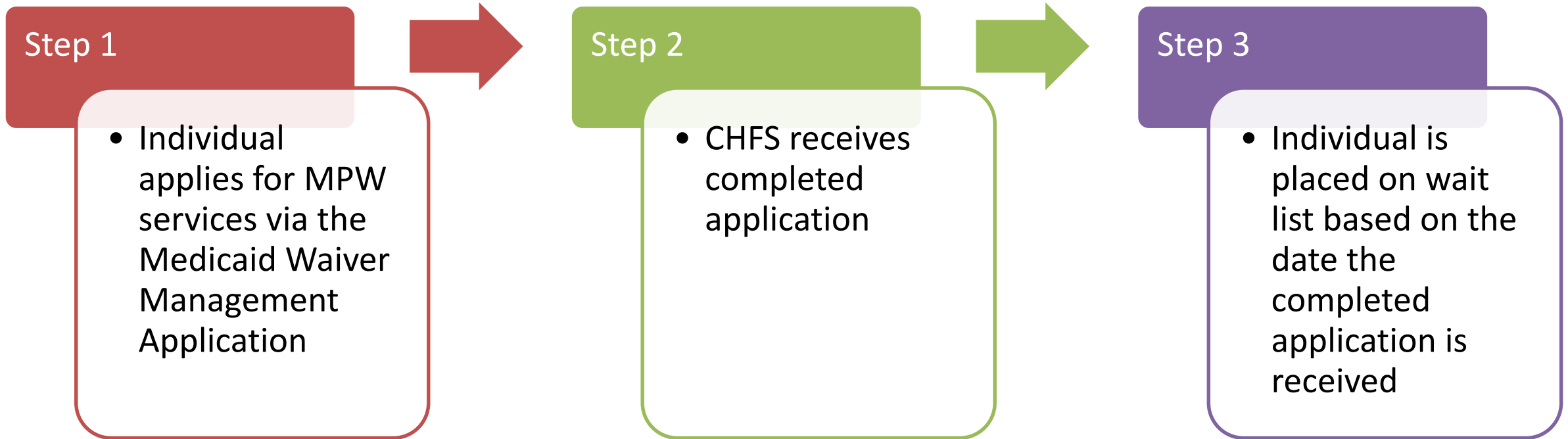
Waitlist Data Points	MPW
Total Number of People	7,583
Time Elapsed Since Application Processing Date prior to Allocation	6 years

Supports for Community Living (SCL) Waitlist Data

Waitlist Data Points	SCL- Urgent	Waitlist Data Points	SCL - Future Planning
Total Number of People	119	Total Number of People	2,814
Max Time Elapsed Since Waitlist Date	21 years	Max Time Elapsed Since Waitlist Date	26 years

- In Kentucky, waiting lists for slots on MPW and SCL waivers are lengthy. Multi-year wait times are common.
- MPW’s earliest application processing dates to 2015. SCL’s earliest waitlist date for urgent requests is 2000, and for future planning requests is 1995.
- An average of 78 individuals are added to the MPW waiting list each month. For SCL, an average of 30 are added each month.

Current Wait List Management: MPW



MPW wait list policy is listed in 907 KAR 12:010 and 907 KAR 7:020.

Current Wait List Management: MPW

Wait list is determined on a first come, first serve basis. No level of care (LOC) evaluation is required to be placed on wait list.

An individual undergoes a LOC assessment once a slot opens for them.

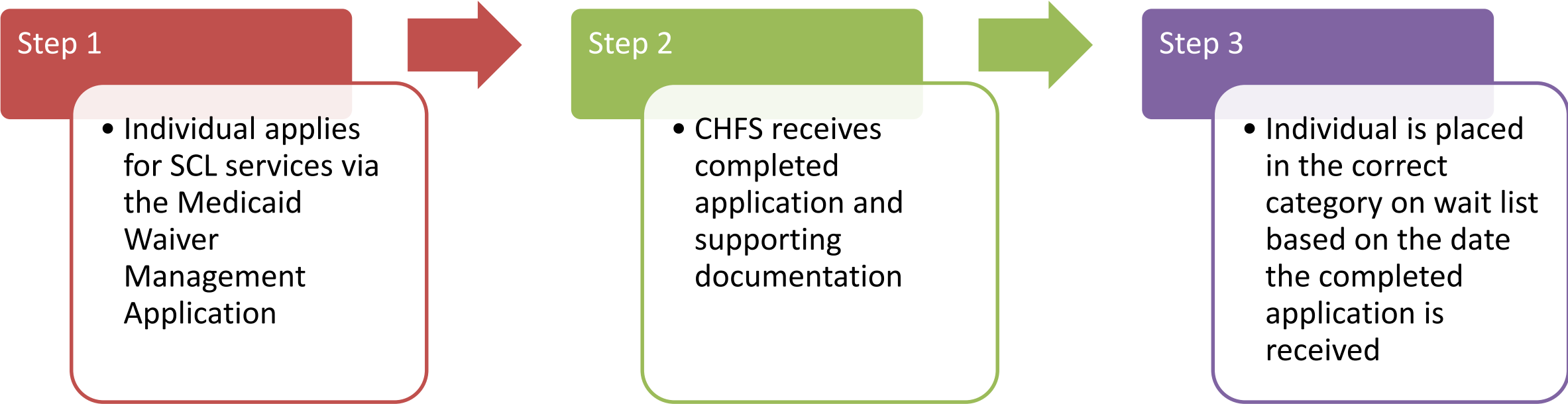
Assessments commonly find individuals on the wait list do not qualify for MPW services. This slows down the process of getting services to individuals who do qualify.

Individuals can receive services in another waiver and through state plan while on a wait list.

Individuals can decline a slot when offered; however, then they move to the end of the wait list. Individuals can also remove themselves from the wait list at any time. This does not prevent them from re-applying at a later date.

MPW wait list policy is listed in 907 KAR 1:835

Current Wait List Management: SCL



SCL wait list policy is listed in 907 KAR 12:010 and 907 KAR 7:020.

Current Wait List Management: SCL

Wait list is determined by category: Emergency, Urgent, or Future Planning. Once a category is determined, individuals are placed first come, first serve.

An individual undergoes a LOC assessment once a slot opens for them.

Individuals can receive services in another waiver and through state plan while on a wait list.

Individuals can decline a slot when offered. Individuals can also remove themselves from the wait list at any time. This does not prevent them from re-applying at a later date.

SCL wait list policy is listed in 907 KAR 12:010 and 907 KAR 7:020.

SCL Waiting List Categories

Emergency

Immediate services needed due to:

- Abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the individual substantiated by DCBS
- Death of the individual's primary caregiver and lack of alternative caregiver
- Lack of appropriate placement due to loss of housing, loss of funding, or imminent discharge from a temporary placement
- Jeopardy to individual's health and safety due to the primary caregiver's physical or mental health status
- Imminent or current institutionalization

Urgent

Individual needs services within one year and:

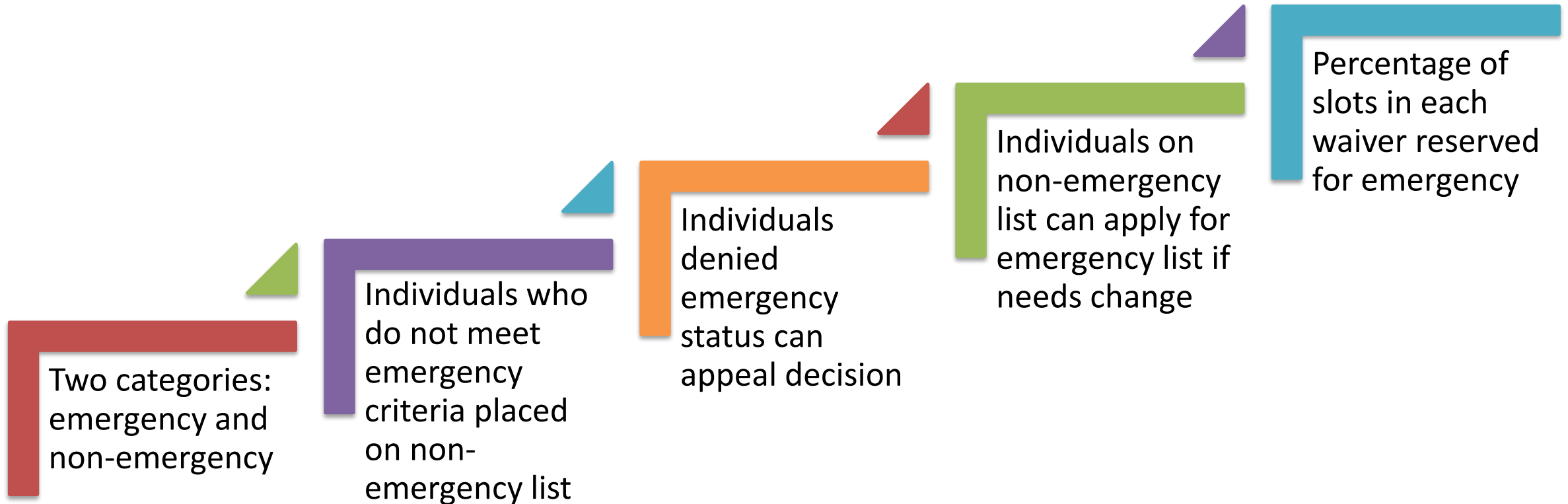
- Has a threatened loss of existing funding source for supports due to age or eligibility
- Is in a temporary or inappropriate placement but health and safety is assured
- Has a primary caregiver with diminished capacity due to physical or mental status and no alternative caregiver
- Exhibits an intermittent behavior or action that requires hospitalization or police intervention

Future Planning

Individual needs services within one year and:

- Is not currently receiving a service through another funding source and needs are being met
- Is not receiving services and does not currently need services
- Is in the custody of DCBS

Proposed Wait List Management for Each 1915(c) HCBS Waiver

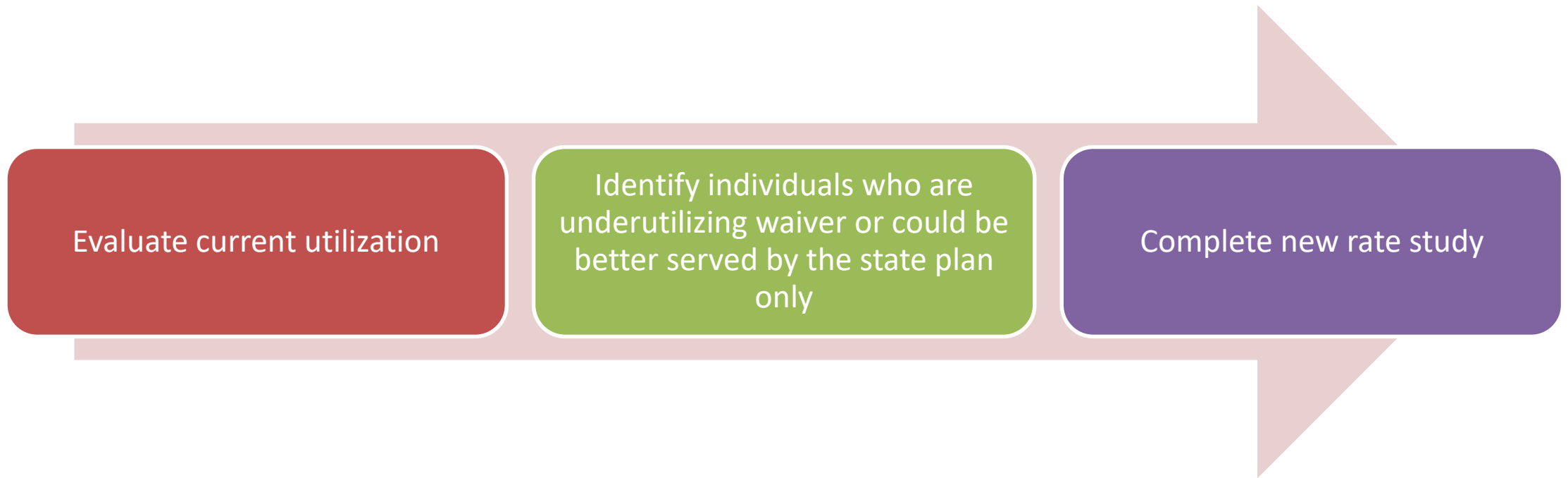


Unduplicated Slots and the Wait List

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require waiver slots be unduplicated.
- CMS defines an unduplicated waiver participant as a *“unique individual who participates in the waiver during a waiver year, regardless of when the individual entered the waiver and length of stay on the waiver. A person who enters, exits, and re-enters the waiver during a waiver year counts as one unduplicated waiver participant.”*
- Think of each participant as the “owner” of their waiver slot. If they leave for any reason, they still “own” the waiver slot until the waiver year is over.
- This only applies to slots where the participants who aren’t receiving services at the end of the waiver year. If a participant is actively receiving services when the waiver year ends, they become the owner of the slot for the next year too.

Eliminating Wait Lists: The Cost

Calculating the dollar amount it would take to eliminate the wait list is difficult. It's hard to estimate what each individual would need or what their services would cost. There are some practical steps that could be taken to reduce and better manage wait lists.



How Can the General Assembly Help?

Funding

- Additional money is needed to improve HCBS programs for current participants and expand availability to all Kentuckians in need of supports.

Holistic Consideration of HCBS

- Certain populations receiving HCBS have a stronger advocacy network than others; however, all of Kentucky's HCBS programs are in need of updates and improvements.

Public Support for HCBS Updates

- DMS anticipates pushback from stakeholders regarding certain updates and needs support to move those forward. Hot button issues include rate-setting and participant directed services policies.