

**Report of the  
Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee  
of the Arkansas Legislative Council**

May 16, 2014

Mr. Co-Chairs:

The Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council met on May 15, 2014. Joe Thompson, M.D., Arkansas Surgeon General, and Director for the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, and Bo Ryall, President and CEO of the Arkansas Hospital Association, released preliminary hospital data which showed a 24% decline in uninsured patients at 42 of Arkansas's 83 acute care hospitals which are members of the Arkansas Hospital Association. Mr. Ryall said the collection of the data from his members is continuing and updates will be provided to the legislature.

The Arkansas Surgeon General also reported that the state will begin a comprehensive evaluation on the impact of the Private Option later this summer. The research requires the state to evaluate access to health care, clinical outcomes, enrollment in coverage, and the cost-effectiveness of the health insurance program.

The following hospital administrators testified before the subcommittee about how this change has affected their hospitals:

- Raymond W. Montgomery, II, FACHE, President and CEO, White County Medical Center, Searcy, Arkansas
- Ron Peterson, FACHE, President and CEO, Baxter Regional Medical Center, Mountain Home, Arkansas
- Harry Hutchison, FHFMA, Vice President Finance, St. Bernards Healthcare, Jonesboro, Arkansas
- Peggy L. Abbott, President and CEO, Ouachita County Medical Center, Camden, Arkansas

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Senator Jason Rapert, Chair

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Representative Andy Davis, Chair