

Exhibit B.1

MINUTES SENATE INTERIM CHILDREN AND YOUTH August 14, 2012

The Senate Interim Children and Youth Committee met on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 in Heber Springs, Arkansas at 2:00 p.m., in the Student Services/Administration Building, Entergy Room, 101 River Crest Drive, Heber Springs, Arkansas.

Committee members present were: Senator Missy Irvin; Chair. Other legislators present: Senators Jeremy Hutchinson and Johnny Key; Representatives Josh Johnston, Loy Mauch and Gary Stubblefield,

Senator Missy Irvin called the meeting to order. Senator Irvin welcomed legislators present and thanked them and everyone for attending the meeting.

Review of Minutes from the Meeting of June 26, 2012

The minutes of June 26, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Arkansas State University-Heber Springs (ASU-HS), Chris Boyette, Ed.D, Vice Chancellor

Mr. Boyette began by saying that Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASU-B) has four campuses: Beebe, Heber Springs, Searcy, and the Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB). He noted that ASU-Heber Springs has been ranked in the top 10% of community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute. For the third year in a row, all of ASU's campuses have been ranked as being the safest. GI Magazine also designated ASU as veteran friendly. Students from 63 counties, 28 states and 14 countries attend ASU. ASU-Beebe is the only community college in the state that provides on-campus housing and has an operating farm. Besides an operational farm, courses for veterinary technicians, John Deere and pharmacy technicians are offered. ASU-HS has a nursing, veterinary technician and hospitality administration program. Additionally apprenticeships are offered in electrical, plumbing and welding. The welding program is a world class welding technology program that confers approximately 50 credentials annually and provides industry training. For the past three years a second year student in this program has won the state competition and has gone on to national competition. The Environmental Science degree is new. This program was recently approved by the Higher Education Board and it will meet some of the specific needs of this region.

Mr. Boyette introduced: Dr. Eugene McKay, ASU-Beebe, Chancellor; Mr. Robert Evans, ASU Systems; Mr. Joe Berry, ASU-Beebe, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor; Ms. Carol Johnson, ASU-HS, Advancement and Grant Writing and Ms. Karen Cooper, ASU-HS, Assistant to the Chancellor.

Mr. Boyette noted that the Heber Springs campus has approximately 550 students and a grand total of 650 including non-credit students and work force project participants.

Dr. Eugene McKay was recognized and discussed ASU's association with the LRAFB. ASU became part of LRAFB in 1965. ASU-Beebe offers classes at LRAFB Education Center to support United States Air Force off duty education programs for active duty military members who receive enrollment priority in on-base classes. There are 8, 12 and 16 week terms in the traditional classroom setting and online. Approximately 50 classes are offered each 8 week term. Most classes are scheduled in the late afternoon, evening, or on weekends. A new campus has recently been built outside the gates of the airbase which allows easy access for students. In addition to active duty military students, other students may enroll in classes on a space available basis and consistent with the security posture at LRAFB.

Representative Mauch asked what master degrees are available. Dr. McKay said the master degrees offered are in education: Mid-level Education, Education Administration, and Curriculum.

Bridge to College-Karen Cooper, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, ASU-HS

Ms. Karen Cooper was recognized and described the Bridge to College Program (BCP). She stated that the BCP is an outreach program that began in the county schools. BCP has been very successful, and is now partnering with seven schools. The program encourages high school seniors to set goals and continue their education after high school graduation. Participants visit the community college and are allowed to pre-register to alleviate some of the difficulties often faced by first year students.

Child Care Aware of North Central Arkansas-Debbie Webb, Program Director

Mr. Debbie Webb was recognized and spoke about the economic impact Child Care Aware has had in Arkansas. Child Care Aware began in 1997. It is a regional child care resource and referral agency with a goal to enhance the quality and the availability of child care. Child Care Aware partners to raise the level of professionalism in the child care industry, and advocates for children and child care professionals.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services, (DHS)-Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) let contracts effective July 1, 2012. The contracts will enable all 75 counties to be covered. Northcentral Arkansas includes: Baxter, Cleburne, Conway, Faulkner, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Marion, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren and White. The people impacted the most are families, child care providers, business and industry, communities and most importantly, children.

Senator Irvin asked Ms. Webb how closely Child Care Aware works with the educational cooperatives. Ms. Webb said the Resource Center and lending library is modeled after the Educational Cooperatives. Everyone involved in early child care and education has access to the center and the library and all available information. Child Care Aware also works closely with local DHS offices. Whenever a referral is made, a hard copy of the information is sent to those involved. Anyone wanting a packet can call the Child Care Aware office (870) 793-5233 or go to www.ccana.org and request one, and a packet will be mailed or sent electronically. Senator Irvin asked about NAPSAC. Ms. Webb said NAPSAC stands for Nutrition and Physical Self Assessment for Child Care and was developed by the University of North Carolina. The purpose NAPSAC is to effect a change in the environment and the attitudes of not only the child care providers and the children but also the parents. She noted that this is a program that is supported by First Lady Michelle Obama. The 8 facilities that Child Care Aware Northcentral works with each receives a \$500 stipend annually. Each facility does a self-assessment, receives group training on nutrition and physical activity and also receives site visits. The facilities have to develop a budget and address areas needing improvement.

Representative Stubblefield asked about pre-licensing training. Ms. Webb said that each of the Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral Programs (CCR&R) in the state will be providing pre-licensing training effective this year. There will be a "train the trainer" session in September, 2012. Ms. Webb said they would be talking to new facilities or those who have made inquiries to the licensing specialists about how to open a home or child care center. The training was developed by the Licensing Unit of the DCCECE. Grants have been received from Child Care Development Block Grant fund (CCDBG) and Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC).

Senator Hutchinson asked if incidents ever occur in a child care facility where someone would be taken off the referral list. Ms. Webb said there is a referral policy and when different situations occur, such as questions about licensing, or a complaint about abuse or neglect, they could be removed from the referral

list. Senator Hutchinson also asked about illiteracy and preparation for kindergarten and if there were any curriculum requirements. Ms. Webb said the ABC Program does a great job preparing children to enter school ready to learn as well as the Head Start Program. Both programs have federal funding.

Senator Irvin asked Ms. Webb to send information on early learning programs to Ms. Vickers-Smith to be distributed to committee members. Ms. Webb said she would be glad to answer any questions and be a resource for the committee. She stated that her telephone number is (870)-307-4060.

Senator Irvin allowed additional comments or concerns from ASU-HS staff. Mr. McKay stated that he was concerned about Act 1184 pertaining to two year colleges. He noted an unintended consequence of Act 1184 relating to admittance requirements for colleges and universities. The law set a minimum ACT score of 15 in order to be admitted. Emphasizing that there is not any vocational technical school in Arkansas (because they were absorbed by community college systems at the request of the legislature); this Act may possibly reduce the number of students that could be admitted for technical courses in the two year colleges.

Senator Irvin recognized Ms. Melissa Gardner with the Heber Springs Chamber of Commerce and thanked her for coordinating the meetings with Mr. Boyett. Ms. Gardner welcomed everyone and thanked everyone who travelled to Heber Springs.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

A tour of the Heber Springs Community Center followed.