

MINUTES

**Senate Health Services Subcommittee of Public Health Committee
House Health Services Subcommittee of Public Health Committee
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
10:00 A.M.**

Subcommittee Members Present: Senators Jimmy Hickey, Jr., Chair; Ronald Caldwell, Missy Irvin, and Bill Sample Representatives Deborah Ferguson, Chair; Justin Boyd, Michelle Gray, Lee Johnson, Jack Ladyman, Frederick Love, and Mark Perry

Other Legislators Present: Senators Linda Chesterfield and Kim Hammer Representatives Fred Allen, Bruce Coleman, Andy Davis, Marsh Davis, Denis Ennett, Charlene Fite, Kenneth Ferguson, Denise Garner, Clint Penzo, Jamie Scott, Joy Springer, Dan Sullivan, and Marcus Richmond

Call to Order and Comments by the Chair Representative Deborah Ferguson called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Adopt Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2020 [Exhibit C] With no objection, the minutes were approved.

ISP2019-170- “An Act to Amend the Definition of “Practice of Certified Nurse Anesthesia” by Removing Supervision Requirements; and for Other Purposes [Exhibit D] Representative Clint Penzo discussed that in 1981 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services enacted supervision language. It was stated the language was not quality control criterion. The supervision requirement was solely to meet the condition of participation for Medicare Part A reimbursement to facilities. The bill seeks to remove the word “supervision” and replace it with “in consultation with a licensed physician”. This will increase access to care and reduce healthcare costs for Arkansans in rural hospitals. It will also clarify confusing liability language. Slade Bridwell, President Elect, Anesthesia Nurse Anesthetist Association discussed that there has been no current discussion with anesthesiologists on the issue. Certified nurse anesthetists carry the same amount of liability as a surgeon.

ISP2019-171-“An Act to Provide for Opportunities for Patient Choice and Promote Quality of Care as a Requirement for Licensure and Certification as a Provider of Early Intervention Day Treatment Services to Children and Nonresidential Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities; and for other Purposes” [Exhibit E] Representative Dan Sullivan discussed efforts to allow for more patient choice throughout different regions. This would mean more options in regards to providers. The goals were outlined to ensure patients are taken care of, business owners are taken care of, and to ensure the state’s money is handled responsibly. Representative Sullivan emphasized his willingness to compromise in certain areas of the ISP. Mark White, Chief Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Officer and Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services discussed concerns that the statute may be a little unclear in terms of administering. Solutions need to be considered in order to protect counties that may not be able to support two or more operations.

ISP2019-172- “An Act to Authorize Emergency Medical Services Personnel to Administer Certain Emergency Prescription Medications to a Patient who has Specific Health Condition; To Require Participation in Care Coordination by Emergency Medical Services; To Ensure appropriate Transport of a Patient who has a Specific Health Condition; and for other Purposes” [Exhibit F] Representative Lee Johnson discussed the purpose of the ISP being to empower paramedics in the pre-hospital setting to provide medication that patients may carry in the case of rare disorders. Certain disorders, bleeding disorders for example, require patients to carry their medications with them. However, as it stands now, paramedics may only

administer medications they carry on their trucks to patients. This legislation would allow paramedics to administer the medications had by the patients in rare occasions. This would only be medications prescribed to the patient. There is no known opposition to this thus far.

Without further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 AM.

DRAFT