

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Thursday, August 10, 2023**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice-Chair; Scott Flippo, and David Wallace; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Jon Eubanks, Deborah Ferguson, Kenneth Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Zack Gramlich, Jack Ladyman, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Scott Richardson, Ryan Rose, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Jonathan Dismang and Jim Dotson; Representatives Joey Carr, Les Eaves, David Ray, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, and Danny Watson

Representative Johnson called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Adopt the June 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Without objection the minutes were approved.

**Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review Program Annual Report [Exhibits C1 and C2]**

Dawn Porter, Infant and Child Death Review (ICDR) Community Program Supervisor, Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH); and Semeria Hill, ICDR Program Coordinator, ACH; provided a review of the infant and child death report and explained the purpose of the program which is to improve the response to infant and child fatalities based on findings.

**Discussion of Little Rock Pregnancy Resource Center [Exhibit D]**

Shelley Lewis, Executive Director, Little Rock Pregnancy Resource Center, gave a presentation on the nonprofit pregnancy center that serves any woman not yet under obstetrician care. The center provides pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds, STI testing and treatment, and provides women with resources for further pregnancy care.

**Discussion of Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center**

Donna Ezell, Executive Director, Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center, provided a summary of the Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center, a center that provides pregnant women with limited ultrasounds, counseling, and resources for any care or supplies needed throughout pregnancy.

**Discussion of Life Choices Pregnancy Center [Exhibit F]**

Maria Speer, Executive Director, Life Choices Pregnancy Center, discussed the services provided by Life Choices Pregnancy Center including pregnancy testing, referrals to community resources, and material assistance.

**Review of Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission Annual Report for 2022 [Exhibit G]**

Matt Gilmore, Boards and Commissions Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); and Kenya Eddings, Interim Executive Director, Healthy Active Arkansas; gave a review of the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission annual report for 2022.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, the report stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Center for Health Protection, Review of Rule Pertaining to Reportable Diseases for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases [Exhibit H]**

Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; and Dr. Naveen Patil, Deputy State Health Officer, ADH; discussed the proposed rule that adds nationally notifiable conditions of reportable diseases to the AR list of Reportable Diseases.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Center for Health Protection, Review of Rule Pertaining to the List of Controlled Substances for the State of Arkansas [Exhibit I]**

Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; and Shane David, Branch Chief of Health Systems Licensing Regulations, ADH; discussed the proposed rule that amends the List of Controlled Substances for the State of Arkansas adding substances to the Controlled Substances List.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Center for Health Protection, Review of Rule Pertaining to Rules for Hospitals and Related Institutions in Arkansas [Exhibit J]**

Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; and Connie Melton, Director of the Center for Health Protection, ADH; discussed the proposed rule that allows for revisions that create a new licensure type for rural emergency hospitals.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.