

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Thursday, January 4, 2024
11:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice-Chair; Bryan King, Fredrick J. Love; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Josh Miller, Vice-Chair; Mary Bentley, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Zack Gramlich, Stephen Magie, Mark Perry, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Jim Dotson, and Kim Hammer; Representatives Wade Andrews, Mark Berry, Matt Duffield, Denise Ennett, Steve Hollowell, Tippi McCullough, Stetson Painter, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, David Ray, and Joy Springer

Representative Johnson called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the December 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

~~Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of County Operations, Rules Pertaining to Act 923—
Independence Accounts & REPEALS: Social Services Block Grant Manual, Social Services Block Grant Pre-
Expenditure Plan [Exhibit C]~~

DHS, Division of Medical Services (DMS), Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and OTC (Over the Counter) Updates & REPEALS: PUB 85 – Differential Response: A Family-Centered Approach to Strengthen and Support Families; PUB 357 – Child Maltreatment Investigation Determination Guide [Exhibit D]

Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, DHS; Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS; and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary for Programs, DHS; discussed the proposed rule that removes the federal requirement that practitioners submit a Notice of Intent to prescribe medications for MAT services. All practitioners who have a current Drug Enforcement Administration registration may now prescribe and treat OUD and SUD in their practice if permitted by applicable state law.

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

DHS, DMS, Adult Immunization Mandatory Coverage & REPEALS: DDS Policy 3003 – Research Involving Individuals Served; DDS Policy 2005 – Incidental Funds Account [Exhibit E]

Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, DHS; Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS; and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary for Programs, DHS; discussed the proposed rule that amends the Medicaid State Plan to ensure coverage of and reimbursement for all adult (19 and older) immunizations.

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

DHS, DMS, Coordinated Triage, Treatment, and Transport to Alternative Destination (Act 480) & REPEALS: DDS Policy 3010 – Human Rights Committee; DDS Policy 3011 – Behavior Management [Exhibit F]

Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, DHS; Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS; and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary for Programs, DHS; discussed the proposed rule that implements Act 480 of 2023 providing for Medicaid coverage and reimbursement for licensed and enrolled ground ambulances to triage, treat, and transport a beneficiary to an alternative destination when a medically necessary service is coordinated by telemedicine with a physician or a behavioral health specialist.

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

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Center for Health Protection, Rules for Control of Sources of Ionizing Radiation [Exhibit G]

Chuck Thompson, Managing Attorney, ADH, and Shane David, Branch Chief, Health Systems Licensing, ADH, discussed the proposed rule that initiates the process for the revision of the Arkansas State Board of Health Rules for Control of Sources of Ionizing Radiation which regulates the possession and use of x-ray machines, accelerators, and radioactive material in Arkansas.

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

ADH, Center for Health Protection, Rules Pertaining to Radiologic Technology Licensure [Exhibit H]

Chuck Thompson, Managing Attorney, ADH, and Shane David, Branch Chief, Health Systems Licensing, ADH, discussed the proposed rule that modifies the Rules Pertaining to Radiologic Technology Licensure process, specifically the automatic licensure requirements for uniformed service members.

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

ADH, Center for Health Protection, Rules for Perfusionists in Arkansas [Exhibit I]

Chuck Thompson, Managing Attorney, ADH, and Paula Day, Section Chief, Health Facilities Services, ADH, discussed the proposed rule that modifies the Rules for Perfusionists in Arkansas, specifically the automatic licensure requirements for uniformed service members.

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

ADH, Center for Health Protection, Rules for Orthotic, Prosthetic, and Pedorthic Providers in Arkansas [Exhibit J]

Chuck Thompson, Managing Attorney, ADH, and Paula Day, Section Chief, Health Facilities Services, ADH, discussed the proposed rule that modifies Rules for Orthotic, Prosthetic, and Pedorthic Providers in Arkansas, specifically the automatic licensure requirements for uniformed service members.

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

ADH, Center for Health Protection, REPEAL: Rules for Abortion Facilities in Arkansas [Exhibit K]

Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH, and Paula Day, Section Chief, Health Facilities Services, ADH, discussed the proposed rule that removes the requirement that the Arkansas Department of Health license abortion facilities.

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

ADH, Public Health Laboratory, Rules Pertaining to the Testing of Newborn Infants [Exhibit L]

Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH, and Dr. Katie Seely, Director, Public Health Laboratory, ADH, discussed the proposed rule that amends the list of conditions requiring screenings match core medical conditions listed in the recommended uniform screening panel by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

DRAFT