

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR

MEETING JOINTLY

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The Senate and House Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committees met on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Heart Hospital, 1701 S. Shackelford Road, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senators Irvin, Chair, Kim Hammer, and Bill Sample. Representatives Jack Ladyman, Chair, Mary Bentley, Karilyn Brown, Bruce Coleman, Deborah Ferguson, Kenneth Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Michelle Gray, Clint Penzo, and Mark Perry.

Other legislators present: Representatives Steve Hollowell and James Sorvillo.

Call to Order: Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Comments by the Chairs: Senator Irvin thanked the Arkansas Heart Hospital for hosting the committee. Representative Ladyman thanked the legislators for their attendance.

Welcome, History, Development, Training Center, and Statewide Outreach of Arkansas Heart Hospital:

Senator Irvin recognized Dr. Bruce Murphy, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas Heart Hospital who gave a PowerPoint presentation with a history and overview:

- The hospital was developed and established by local physicians in 1997 and began with 20 beds
- Currently, there are 110 private inpatient Intensive Care Units (ICU)
- The hospital provides patient focused care with ancillary services provided to patients at bedside including: Colonoscopy, Exray, Blood Lab, and Echocardiography
- 6 cardiac catheterization labs are located within the hospital with 1 located off-site at the hospital's clinic
- There are 3 operating suites, 9 emergency room beds, a wound care and hyperbaric center
- The hospital developed a satellite system across the state with a strong presence in the south, southeast, south central, and northeast Arkansas regions

Andrea Nelson, Chief Operating Officer, Arkansas Heart Hospital reviewed the services the hospital provides using a team approach:

- The hospital is patient focused with all of its' patient rooms licensed as critical care rooms
- The hospital has a full service emergency room with board certified emergency physicians operating twenty-four hours per day seven days a week
- Consulting services include; speech therapy, dietetics, diabetes management, and physical therapy
- 900 hundred open heart surgeries are performed annually
- The hospital's off-site clinic focuses on diagnosis of heart disease
- 100,000 patients are seen on a yearly basis
- 2 venous procedure rooms provide vascular diagnostic imaging
- The Bariatric and Metabolic Institute has proven to be a very successful program

- There are over 750,000 obese adults in Arkansas who would benefit from intervention
- An endocrinology clinic was added in 2019
- A heart attack risk assessment known as “Keep the Beat” is available for \$99.00

Drew Jackson, President, Arkansas Heart Hospital gave an overview of the clinics the hospital operates, which are located in Benton, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Russellville, Conway, Searcy, Hot Springs, and El Dorado:

- The 9 clinics are considered primary clinics open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- There are an additional 21 clinics across the state
- 2 of the newest locations are in Russellville and Conway
- The Conway clinic has an on-site greenhouse and a Master Gardener
- In 2019, the hospital and clinics served over 41 states with 125,000 office visits
- The Heart Hospital serves as the teaching arm of the University of Arkansas Medical Center (UAMS) in cardiology and electric physiology
- The majority of all heart surgeries performed at UAMS are performed by Arkansas Heart Hospital surgeons
- This will be the 20th year the hospital has hosted its’, “Heart Summit”, with nationally and internationally recognized speakers

Mr. Jackson gave a presentation on the next Arkansas Heart Hospital currently under construction in Saline County:

- The hospital will open with 25 beds
- A management team has been hired and is preparing for the opening of the facility in December, 2020
- This hospital will be a Bariatric Center of Excellence
- The hospital will focus on peripheral vascular disease

Legislators discussed the new technologies and procedures the hospital provides with Dr. Murphy and Mr. Jackson.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Upon adjournment of the meeting, legislators were given a tour of the hospital and the off-site clinic.