

MINUTES**SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, LABOR, AND WELFARE****Monday, August 2, 2021****1:00 PM****Room A, MAC****Little Rock, Arkansas**

Committee members present: Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; Breanne Davis, Kim Hammer, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Jack Ladyman, Chair; Deborah Ferguson, Vice Chair; Mary Bentley, Joe Cloud, Jim Dotson, Jon Eubanks, John Payton, Mark Perry and Carlton Wing

Other members present: Senators Charles Beckham, Linda Chesterfield, Johnathan Dismang, Joyce Elliott, Jimmy Hickey, Jr., Mark Johnson, Mark Lowery, Mathew Pitsch, and Clarke Tucker; Representatives Rick Beck, Mark Berry, Stan Berry, Harlan Breaux, Joshua Bryant, Craig Christiansen, Denise Ennett, Vivian Flowers, Delia Haak, Spencer Hawks, Steve Hollowell, Fredrick Love, Julie Mayberry, Austin McCollum, Tippi McCullough, Jon Milligan, David Ray, Johnny Rye, Jamie Scott, Keith Slape, Stu Smith, David Tollett, and DeAnn Vaught

Representative Ladyman called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes for the July 6, 2021, Meeting [Exhibit C]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Covid-19 Update [Handout 1]

Jennifer Dillaha, MD, State Epidemiologist, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); Don Adams, Deputy Director for Administrator Operations, ADH; Marcy Doderer, President & CEO, Arkansas Children's Hospital; Bo Ryall, President & CEO, Arkansas Hospital Association; and Greg Crain, Senior Vice President/Administrator, Baptist health Medical Center-Little Rock; provided an update regarding the Covid-19 Delta Variant, the vaccination rates of children within the state of Arkansas, and current hospital capacities.

Department of Human Services (DHS) Quarterly Reports [Exhibit E]

Dawn Stehle, Deputy Director, State Medicaid Director, DHS; and Dennis Smith, Senior Advisor for Medicaid and Health Care Reform, DHS; presented the Medicaid Transformation Scorecard and the Quarterly Reports for both the first and second quarter of the State Fiscal year 2021.

Department Human Services Overview of Community Services Block Grant [Exhibit F]

Mark White, Chief Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Officer and Chief of Staff, DHS; and Mary Franklin, Director of County Operations, DHS; provided an overview of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) State Plan as well as a Review of State CSBG Plan as required every three years by a federal rule.

Arkansas Department of Health, Review of Rule [Exhibit G]

Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH, discussed action to lower the clearance levels for the amount of lead that can remain in dust on floors and windowsills after lead removal activities regarding lead-based paint activities.

Representative Ladyman stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Health, Review of Rule [Exhibit H]

Laura, Shue, General Counsel, ADH, explained amendments to Act 345 of 2021 and Act 315 of 2019, and the removal of the definition of Hospital and Non-Hospital Reporting manuals.

Representative Ladyman stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

Review of Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission 2020 Annual Evaluation Report [Exhibit I]

Matt Gilmore, Boards and Commissions Coordinator, ADH, gave the 2020 report regarding Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission and pointed out that some of numbers, whether down or up, were a result of Covid-19.

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

Report of Automated External Defibrillator on Public School Campuses [Exhibit J]

Cheria McDonald, BSN, RN, NCSN, State School Nurse Consultant, Arkansas Department of Education, discussed the increased number of defibrillators in public schools across Arkansas.

Interim Study Proposals

Without objection, the Interim Study Proposals were adopted and referred to the following subcommittees:

Health Services	Labor and Environment	Human Services
2021-013	2021-076	2021-007
2021-015	2021-077	2021-010
2021-023	2021-078	2021-016
2021-037	2021-089	2021-057
2021-038		2021-058
2021-051		2021-073
2021-063		2021-086
2021-067		
2021-100		
2021-103		
2021-104		

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.