

## MINUTES

### HOUSE & SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR

August 10, 2015

The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare and Labor met Monday, August 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Public Health Senate Members Attending Were:** Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; John Cooper, Scott Flippo, Missy Irvin, and David Sanders.

**Public Health House Members Attending Were:** Representatives Kelley Linck, Chair; Mary Bentley, Justin Boyd, Ken Bragg, David Branscum, Charlene Fite, Ken Henderson, Robin Lundstrum, David Meeks, Josh Miller, Betty Overbey, John Payton, Dan Sullivan, Jeff Wardlaw, and Richard Womack.

**Other Legislators Attending Were:** Senators Eddie Cheatham, Jeremy Hutchinson, and Greg Standridge. Representatives Scott Baltz, Jim Dotson, Kenneth Ferguson, Joe Jett, Bob Johnson, George McGill, Micah Neal, Sue Scott, Dwight Tosh, and Marshall Wright.

#### **Comments by the Chairs**

Representative Kelley Linck called the meeting to order, and announced that the next Public Health meeting has been scheduled for September 8, 2015. At the request of DHS (Department of Human Services), 'Item F' has been removed from the agenda.

Addressing the committee members, Representative Linck stated that the *Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI)* handout that you are receiving now, is a biography of Arkansas's innovative new health care system from inception to the present time. It will not be discussed today, but perhaps at a later time.

#### **Consideration to Approve the Minutes of the July 6, 2015 Meeting (Exhibit C)**

Representative Linck stated that without objection the minutes from the July 6, 2015 meeting are approved.

#### **Update on the Operations of the Arkansas Department of Health (Handout #1)**

Nate Smith, M.D., MPH, State Health Officer & Director of the Arkansas Department of Health, Ann Purvis, Deputy Director, and Robert Brech, Chief Financial Officer, both with the Arkansas Department of Health; presented an update on the operations of the Arkansas Department of Health.

Dr. Smith gave a brief history of the home health program in Arkansas from its inception in 1981 to the present time; but because it is no longer financially sustainable, The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is having to discontinue this program. This situation came about because of the declining revenues, increased costs, and a decrease in the number of patients.

Dr. Smith assured the committees that during this transition period, all of the patients who receive care from ADH will continue to receive the best of care (with special emphasis on the rural areas of the state). Mr. Breck added that Medicare is the highest payer of this service. In addition, ADH will assist all of the affected employees through this transition process. Ms. Purvis stated that in order to complete a thorough and smooth transition the ADH needs to retain an experienced transition consultant, and perform a geographic overlay in relation to where the affected patients live, especially the rural patients.

**Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Health Systems Licensing & Regulations, Review of Rules & Regulations Regarding Cosmetology in Arkansas; Establishment of Minimum Standards for Postsecondary Education in Schools of Cosmetology in Arkansas (EXHIBIT E)**

Robert Brech, Chief Financial Officer, Arkansas Department of Health, presented the proposed rule change. This rule change establishes minimum standards for postsecondary education in Arkansas Cosmetology schools. This rule was implemented under the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, became effective June 1, 2015, and expires September 29, 2015. It is being promulgated as a permanent rule which becomes effective September 30, 2015.

The intent of these changes is to ensure federal compliance so Arkansas Cosmetology students will continue to be eligible to apply for federal student financial aid.

Representative Linck stated that without objection this rule change will stand as reviewed.

**Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Hazardous Waste Division, Review of Proposed Rule Regarding Arkansas Pollution & Ecology Commission Regulation No. 23, which Deals with Hazardous Waste Management (EXHIBIT G)**

Tammera Harrelson, Chief Deputy Director, and Terry Sligh, Brownfield Coordinator, Hazardous Waste Division, both with Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality; presented and explained the proposed changes. The purpose of these proposed rule changes to Regulation No. 23 is to remain in compliance with federal requirements by adopting the federal revisions to the hazardous waste management rules. Technical and language corrections are also included in these changes.

Representative Linck stated that without objection this rule change will stand as reviewed.

**ADOPTION of ISP 2015-083 for Study: “An Act to Amend the Arkansas Athletic Trainers Act; and for Other Purposes.” (EXHIBIT H)**

Sponsor, Senator Jeremy Hutchinson, and Terry Dewitt, Coordinator, The Athletic Trainers Association presented ISP 2015-083 for further study during the 2015-2016 Interim.

Representative Linck stated that ISP2015-083 will stand as adopted and will be sent to the Health Services Subcommittee.

**ADOPTION OF ISP 2015-127 for Study: “An Act to Create the Arkansas Surgical Technologists Act; to Establish the Registration of Surgical Technologists; and for Other Purposes.” (Sponsor, Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas) (EXHIBIT I)**

Representative Linck stated that since Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas was not present here today to present her ISP, adoption of ISP 2015-127 will be heard at another time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.