

## MINUTES

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

November 18, 2015  
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The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare and Labor met Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Public Health Senate Members Attending Were:** Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; John Cooper, Scott Flippo, Keith Ingram, Missy Irvin, and Gary Stubblefield.

**Public Health House Members Attending Were:** Representatives Kelley Linck, Chair; Deborah Ferguson, Vice Chair; Ken Bragg, Kim Hammer, Robin Lundstrum, Stephen Magie, David Meeks, Josh Miller, John Payton, and Richard Womack.

**Other Legislators Attending Were:** Senator Jonathan Dismang. Representatives Charles Armstrong, Scott Baltz, Mary Broadaway, Andy Davis, Jana Della Rosa, Les Eaves, Lanny Fite, Joe Jett, Sheilla Lampkin, Ron McNair, Sue Scott, and Nelda Speaks.

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

Senator Cecile Bledsoe called the meeting to order.

#### **Consideration to Approve the November 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes (EXHIBIT C)**

Without objection the minutes from the November 2, 2015 meeting was approved.

#### **Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health, Discussion of Rules & Regulations to Extend the Current Rehabilitative Services for Persons with Mental Illness (RSPMI) Moratorium Amendment 6 on Certified RSPMI Sites Until December 31, 2016 (EXHIBIT D)**

Julie Meyer, Director, Policy & Research, and Charlie Green, Director, both with The Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Human Services, presented the proposed change to the current RSPMI Moratorium Amendment 6 on certified RSPMI sites, which would extend this moratorium until December 31, 2016.

Following committee discussion, the committees recommended review of the rule.

#### **Review of Regional Solid Waste Management Authority**

Presenters for the discussion of regional solid waste management authority were:

- ◆ Randy Thurman, Partner, Government Solutions, LLC
- ◆ Michael Grappe, Executive Director, Saline County Regional Solid Waste Management District
- ◆ Becky Keogh, Director, Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Thurman and Charles Miller, Director, Arkansas Environmental Federation, presented a brief history of Arkansas's Landfill Post Closure Trust Fund (*Handout #1*). Representative Linck stated this discussion is to ensure the current committee members are aware of the complete history and the purpose of the Post-Closure Trust Fund balance from its inception in 1991 with the passage of Act 747 to the present.

Due to complaints within his district, Senator Keith Ingram suggested that an explanation be provided to this committee at the next meeting as to why ADEQ has removed the trailers that were previously provided for the disposal of waste tires. Senator Bledsoe agreed this information should be provided to the committees.

Mr. Grappe stated that with the passage of Act 1333 in 2013, the Arkansas Solid Waste Districts were left without any oversight from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) of their recycling grant funds. This year (2015) oversight was taken away from the waste tire program and the e-waste program (there is no accountability for grant funds used by the Solid Waste Districts). The Solid Waste Districts are regulated by a private auditor of their choosing.

Ms. Keogh discussed the cost of solid waste collection, the achievement of Arkansas's recycling program by each district, and the financial status of the recycling program, along with grant amounts (*Handout #2*). In addition, Ms. Keogh stated that due to the expenditures at C&L Landfill and other sites, the Post-Closure Trust Fund balance is declining. ADEQ has proposed two solutions to the Post-Closure Trust Fund balance decline (these solutions are listed in *Handout #2*).

Ms. Keogh gave an overview of the Waste Tire Recycling Program in Arkansas, discussing the concerns and challenges of this program (*Handout #3*). Some states have started using waste tires in highway construction. Representative Lanny Fite commented on the urgent need for financial accountability and oversight; and stated that most of the districts want oversight and accountability. Senator Bledsoe stated that as requested, Representative Lanny Fite will provide his comments in written form to Phil Price, Committee Senior Analyst, who will email this information to all of the committee members.

Representative Kim Hammer would like ADEQ to provide more detailed information of the disposition of E-Waste at the next Public Health Committee meeting. All information will be sent to Mr. Price, who will provide it to the committee members. Senator Cooper would like an official from Blue Oak to present at the next meeting.

Senator Bledsoe said this committee will visit with audit and Representative Lanny Fite, to prepare the next agenda with informative and helpful information. Some of the issues that will be included on the next agenda are E-Waste disposal, waste tire recycling, and a presentation from Blue Oak Arkansas E-Waste Recycling Company.

**ADOPTION FOR STUDY & BRIEF DISCUSSION: ISP2015-140 – “Requesting that the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, & Labor Study Patient Access to Prescription Opioids & the Potential Impact of Abuse—Deterrent Opioid Analgesics.” Sponsor, Representative Justin Boyd (EXHIBIT F)**

Representative Robin Lundstrum presented Representative Boyd's request to move ISP2015-140 to interim study. Senator Cecile Bledsoe stated that without objection ISP2015-140 would be adopted and referred to the Health Services Subcommittee for further study during the 2015-2016 Interim.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.