

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Meeting Jointly
Friday, February 2, 2024
11:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Bryan King, Chair; and Alan Clark, Vice Chair; Representatives Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair; Julie Mayberry, Vice Chair; Keith Brooks, Matt Brown, Matt Duffield, Hope Duke, Shad Pearce, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, Steve Unger, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Jim Dotson, Kim Hammer, Blake Johnson, and Fredrick Love; Representatives Stan Berry, Kenneth Ferguson, Jimmy Gazaway, Marcus Richmond, Johnny Rye, and Jamie Scott

Representative Barker called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the December 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Representative Mayberry made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Springer, and the motion carried.

Department of Human Services – Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Rules Pertaining to Financial Support to Resource Parents and Rules Pertaining to Birth Parents Relinquishing Infants for Adoption Under the Safe Haven Act [Exhibits C1-C2]

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS; Christin Harper, Assistant Director, DCFS; and Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, DCFS; proposed a rule pertaining to providing financial support to resource parents that are fostering children.

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

Christin Harper, Assistant Director, DCFS, also discussed a rule pertaining to birth parents relinquishing infants for adoption under the Safe Haven Act.

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

Presentation of DCFS Work and Goals [Exhibit D]

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, provided an overview of the Division of Children and Family Services. She highlighted their many goals as well as the level of effort they put into supporting foster families and children.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.