

MINUTES

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
Meeting Jointly**

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

1:00 PM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Bryan King, Chair; Alan Clark, Vice-Chair; Justin Boyd, Jane English, Matt McKee, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair; Julie Mayberry, Vice-Chair; Matt Brown, Joey Carr, Matt Duffield, Hope Duke, Charlene Fite, Tony Furman, Rick McClure, Shad Pearce, Aaron Pilkington, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, Steve Unger, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senator Jim Dotson; Representatives Cameron Cooper, Jack Ladyman, Mindy McAlindon, Jay Richardson, Ryan Rose, and Bart Schulz

Representative Barker called the meeting to order.

Review of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs [Exhibit B]

Scott Stanger, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, provided a presentation on the budget allocation of the Arkansas Department of Veteran Affairs per fiscal year.

Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review (ICDR) Program Annual Report [Exhibit C]

Semeria Hill, Infant and Child Death Review Program Coordinator, Injury Prevention Center, and Laura Robertson, Executive Director, Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence, provided an annual report disclosing death statistics of children zero to seventeen.

Review of Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Quarterly Oversight Report, October – December, 2023 [Exhibit D]

Major Jeff Drew, Commander, CACD, reviewed the quarterly report detailing the types of child abuse calls that were received as well as the number which were substantiated.

Review of Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Quarterly Performance Report, October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 [Exhibit E]

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, provided an update on the latest quarterly performance report that contains information on the number of reports investigated by CACD and DCFS.

Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas Annual Report [Exhibit F]

Elizabeth Pulley, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas (CACar), and Markett Humphries, MDT Project Director, CACar, gave a discussion about how they are offering services and access to services across the state such as prevention education, and mental health services.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m