

Minutes
Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth
House Interim Committee on
Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met jointly on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the State Capitol, Room 171, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senators Stephanie Flowers, Chair; Will Bond and Alan Clark. **Representatives** Charlene Fite, Chair; David Meeks, Vice Chair; Charles Blake, LeAnne Burch, Frances Cavanaugh, Bruce Coleman, Michael John Gray, Monte Hodges, Steve Hollowell, Rebecca Petty, Clarke Tucker and Danny Watson.

Non-committee members present: Senator Eddie Joe Williams. **Representatives** Carol Dalby, Johnny Rye, James Sorvillo and Dan Sullivan.

Senator Flowers called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Minutes of August 15, 2017 [Exhibit C]

Without objection, the minutes of the August 15, 2017, meeting were approved.

Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review Program Annual Report [Exhibit D]

Senator Flowers recognized Dr. Mary Aitken, Director, Infant and Child Death Review Program. This program has been in existence since 2011; it was authorized by ACT 1818 of 2005. It is funded by the Arkansas Health Department and contracted through the Arkansas Children's Hospital. An updated copy of the report was provided as well as a fact sheet on the current Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review report. The review team mostly consists of representatives from different agencies; a volunteer director and coordinator, a representative from Crimes Against Children Division, Division of Children and Family Services, medical personnel, local law enforcement, coroner and medical examiner, prosecuting attorney, public health personnel, first responders and a social worker. Recommendations for the team composition is based upon the recommendations from the National Center for Child Death Review. All information is entered into a secured national database, after which the data is then reviewed at the state level and compared nationally. *Please see [Handout #1]*

Dr. Aitken will provide information on All Terrian Vehicles (ATVs) and motor vehicle accidents reported within the state as requested.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Youth Services (DYS) Annual Report

[Exhibit E]

Senator Flowers recognized Ms. Betty Guhman, Director, DYS. Ms. Guhman recognized staff of DYS: Ms. Carmen Mosley Sims, Assistant Director, Community Programs; Marq Golden, Assistant Director, Residential Programs; James Walker, Clinical Director and Adam Baldwin, Reform Manager for a PowerPoint Presentation [Handout #2] on the following:

- . DYS Core Beliefs
- . Common Themes
- . DYS: Who We are
- . DYS: Who We Serve
- . DYS: Why They Are Here
- . DYS Committed Youth: Demographics
- . DYS Challenges
- . Focus on the Family Unit
- . Focus on Data Driven Decisions
- . 2017 DYS Initiatives
- . DYS Leadership
- . Community Based Youth Service Providers
- . DYS Secure Residential Facilities

Ms. Guhman provided an overview on DYS FY 2017, Annual Report. Senator Clark asked that DYS provide statistics on the makeup of the families involved in DYS cases, those with mother and father present and whether they are actively involved in faith based programs. He suggested that it would be a good recommendation if the state would collect this data. Ms. Guhman followed up stating that DYS will look at DYS surveys or the home evaluations to see if this information is included and, if not, they will incorporate it within the evaluation. Senator Clark also inquired about the success rate of the youth and what happens to them later in life. Ms. Guhman stated that DYS is working with the Department of Community Correction on recidivism rates.

Senator Flowers asked that Ms. Guhman provide contact information for herself and DYS staff presenting today.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.