

EXHIBIT C

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

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

10:00 A.M.

Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, AR

Committee members present: **Senators** Bart Hester, Chair; Mathew Pitsch, Vice-Chair; Will Bond, Breanne Davis and Gary Stubblefield. **Representatives** Charlene Fite, Chair; Sonia Eubanks Barker, Vice Chair; Craig Christiansen, Cindy Crawford, Brian Evans, Denise Garner, Don Glover, Jasen Kelly, Julie Mayberry, Tippi McCullough, Jay Richardson, Keith Slape and Stu Smith.

Non-committee members present: **Senators** Eddie Cheatham, **Representatives** Fred Allen, Stan Berry, Cameron Cooper, Carol Dalby, Andy Davis, Jim Dotson, Les Eaves, Denise Ennett, Jack Fortner, Grant Hodges

Representative Fite called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: December 10, 2019 [Exhibit C]

Senator Stubblefield made a motion for approval of the meeting minutes of December 10, 2019. Representative Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Review of the July-September 2019, Third Quarterly Report – Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Arkansas State Police (ASP) [Exhibit D]

Major Jeff Drew, Commander, ASP, was recognized. Major Drew reviewed the Third Quarterly Report for CACD. He mentioned that CACD included Senator Hammer's request to include the data for the alleged victim children in the Severe Physical and Sexual Abuse Allegations section of the report. The report also, provided a breakdown of identified relationships that alleged offenders have with alleged victim children, by allegation type and a brief summary of the Arkansas Prosecuting Attorney's Report.

Senator Stubblefield asked what CACD is doing about the high number of sexual offense allegations, and if there are any recommendations for the legislators in making efforts to decrease those numbers. Major Drew stated that they're working hand-in-hand with law enforcement to get those individuals prosecuted.

Representative Evans asked about the calls received data and if there's a way to determine how many of those calls are repetitive calls involving the same child. Major Drew stated that CACD has a monthly report that provides a breakdown of that information and he can provide that information to the committee.

Senator Pitsch had concerns about the high number of cases in rural areas versus urban areas as reported in the Judicial Districts section of the report. Major Drew stated that it depends on how aggressive prosecutor's handles cases for each area.

Senator Hester suggested CACD make recommendations for the upcoming fiscal session to possibly add additional staff to handle the higher call volumes.

Discussion on the Intake Process and Recent Policy Changes by the Division of Youth Services (DYS), Department of Human Services (DHS) [Exhibit E1-E2]

Mr. Michael Crump, Director, DYS, DHS, and Ms. Cheryl Grappe, Assistant Director for Treatment, DYS, DHS, was recognized to present. Mr. Crump provided an update on recent DYS changes. Those changes included timely assessments, treatment plans and a process for monitoring a youth's progress and planning for their release. DYS has five facilities located across the state, and recently closed two in July, 2019. The facilities are located in: Dermott, AR, Alexander, AR, Harrisburg, AR, Mansfield, AR and Lewisville, AR.

Mr. Crump stated that DYS will be gathering more data on recidivism rates on all of their facilities and will be providing that information at a later time once the data has been updated.

Senator Stubblefield asked about payments for Southwest Arkansas Counseling services being up to date with receiving payments for their services, and Mr. Crump stated that he will follow-up with him with those payment invoices.

Report by the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) as Required by Act 131 of 2019 [Exhibit F]

Ms. Tonya Williams, Director, DCCECE and Mr. Mark White, Chief of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, DHS was recognized to present. Ms. Williams discussed Act 131 of 2019, which created an info-graphic and/or form available via DCCECE website, and the next being; DCCECE was required to report any standards and compare them to federal regulations. In 2013, Arkansas and other states were ranked based upon national standards for child care licensing. Arkansas ranked first in its program oversight and monitoring, and ranked 41st overall, and 49th for program standards nationally.

Report on the Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review (ICDR) [Exhibit G]

Ms. Dawn Porter, Infant and Child Death Review Coordinator, Arkansas Children's Hospital, and Dr. Abdallah Dalabib, Director was recognized to present. Ms. Porter covered the report over fiscal year 2019, matching the funding stream, and which only covers cases in which the child death occurred in 2017. The ICDR Program has expanded to 11 regional teams that review unexpected deaths, which covers 75 Arkansas counties, giving the ICDR Program the potential to evaluate 100% of reviewable pediatric death, as required by Act 1818 of 2005.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.