

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
3:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Justin Boyd, Fredrick Love, Clint Penzo, and David Wallace; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Fred Allen, Mary Bentley, Kenneth Ferguson, Zack Gramlich, Jack Ladyman, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Scott Richardson, Ryan Rose, Bart Schulz, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the August 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection the minutes were approved.

Update on Medicaid Redetermination Process [Exhibit D]

Lori McDonald, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services (DHS), provided an update on the Medicaid redetermination process and the factors that determine continuous enrollment.

Discussion and Recommendation of Funding for Senior Citizen Centers [Exhibits E1-E3]

Jay Hill, Director, Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS), DHS; Jason Kunau, Chief Financial Officer, DAABHS, DHS; and Brad Bailey, Executive Director, Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Arkansas, discussed the American Rescue Plan Act request for additional funds to provide an expansion of work services for the Area Agencies on Aging to recruit, hire, and train public health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future public health challenges.

DHS, Medical Services, Review of Rule Pertaining to Clinical Trials Attestation SPA and Provider Manual Updates [Exhibit F]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, DHS, discussed the proposed rule that outlines new Medicaid state plan requirements for assuring coverage of routine patient costs associated with participation in qualifying clinical trials.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Office of Administration, Review of Rule Pertaining to Rules for Declaratory Orders [Exhibit G]

Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH, and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, discussed the proposed rule that provides declaratory orders to the public with the process for submitting a petition for declaratory order.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.