

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice-Chair; Bryan King, and Fredrick J. Love; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Josh Miller, Vice-Chair; Mary Bentley, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Stephen Magie, Kendra Moore, Aaron Pilkington, Scott Richardson, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield and Kim Hammer; Representatives Stan Berry, Charlene Fite, Johnny Rye, and Joy Springer

Representative Johnson called the meeting to order.

Discussion of PANS/PANDAS by the PACE Foundation (PACE) [Exhibits B1-B3]

Paul Ryan, Co-Founder & President, PACE, and Aravindhan Veerapandiyam (Dr. Panda), MD, Director of the Comprehensive Neuromuscular Program and Co-Director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association Care Center, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Pediatric Neurologist, UAMS, discussed PANS/PANDAS, a pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infection, and gave an update on the research being done to treat patients diagnosed with the disorder.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of County Operations (DCO), Review of Rule Pertaining to ABLE Act Section 103 & Repeals [Exhibit C]

Mary Franklin, Director, DCO, and Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, Office of Chief Counsel, discussed the proposed rule that states all funds in ABLE accounts will be excluded as income and resources for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, Office of Chief Counsel, Review of Rule Pertaining to Office of Appeals and Hearings Update to DHS Policy 1098 & Repeals [Exhibit D]

Sommer Faulkenberry, Chief Administrative Law Judge, Office of Appeals and Hearings, and Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, Office of Chief Counsel, discussed the proposed rule that amends the Administrative Procedures Act to allow administrative adjudication decisions made by the Department of Human Services be served electronically by e-mail if the party consents.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, Division of Medical Services (DMS), Review of Rule Pertaining to Update to Third Party Liability Attestation in Arkansas Medicaid State Plan & Repeals [Exhibit E]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, and Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, Office of Chief Counsel, discussed the proposed rule stating that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) request that all states update their state plans to comply with federal regulations.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

Other Business [Handouts F1-F4]

Senator Irvin referenced Handouts F1-F3 regarding Naloxone prescriptions in response to the opioid epidemic.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) [Handout F4]

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, ISP-2023-097 is adopted for study.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

DRAFT