

MINUTES

HOUSE & SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR

April 25, 2014

The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare and Labor met Friday, April 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room A of the Multi-Agency Complex (MAC) Building.

Public Health Senate members attending were: Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Vice Chair; John Cooper, Jonathan Dismang, and Stephanie Flowers.

Public Health House members attending were: Representatives David Branscum, Deborah Ferguson, Kim Hammer, Justin Harris, Greg Leding, Kelley Linck, Fredrick Love, David Meeks, Betty Overbey, Mark Perry, Jeff Wardlaw, Butch Wilkins, and James Word.

Non-Voting Public Health House members attending were: Representatives John Baine, Mary Broadaway, Charlotte Vining Douglas, John Hutchison, Mark McElroy, and Nate Steel.

Other legislators attending were: Senators Jane English, Johnny Key, Michael Lamoureux, Eddie Joe Williams, Jon Woods and David Wyatt. Representatives Bob Ballinger, Nate Bell, John Catlett, Harold Copenhaver, Bruce Cozart, Andy Davis, Jim Dotson, Jon Eubanks, Charlene Fite, Jeremy Gillam, Debra Hobbs, Douglas House, Sheilla Lampkin, Walls McCrary, Micah Neal, Jim Nickels, James Ratliff, Frederick Smith, John Vines, and Tommy Wren.

Comments by the Chairs

Representative Kelley Linck called the meeting to order.

Committee Member Comments

Senator Stephanie Flowers has requested the following information:

- ◆ When did the Arkansas Insurance Department learn that Centene was offering vision and dental with their policies? Was it before or after the Fiscal Session 2014?
- ◆ What is the cost difference between the policy with vision and dental and the policy without vision and dental?
- ◆ How is Arkansas paying for vision and dental for a select few?

Senator Flowers has requested a meeting to determine the circumstances surrounding Centene's ability to offer this policy that includes vision and dental in Arkansas.

Arkansas Department of Health, State Health Assessment & Improvement Plan 2013, Arkansas' Big Health Problems

Nate Smith, M.D., MPH, Director, Arkansas Department of Health and State Health Officer, gave a brief overview of Arkansas's major health problems and suggested a plan to solve these health issues (*Handout #1*).

Situations that increase health problem disparities in Arkansas are the over one-half million Arkansans that live in poverty, the nearly one-half million Arkansans that live with a disability, and the fact that 45% of Arkansans live in rural areas. Three of the biggest health issues in Arkansas are:

- ◆ Life Expectancy
 - Some of the issues affecting life expectancy are tobacco use, lack of activity, poor diet, obesity & high blood pressure
- ◆ Infant Mortality
 - SIDS is the major cause of infant mortality
- ◆ Health Literacy
 - over 1/3 of Arkansans have low health literacy

Dr. Smith also detailed the cost of poor health to Arkansas. Good healthcare in rural Arkansas is hampered by little or no access, lack of public transportation, and lack of healthy foods. The fastest growing age group, which is seniors 60+, is a growing public health issue with new healthcare problems. The five key plans for improving the health of Arkansans are:

- ◆ Reduce chronic disease
- ◆ Prevent injuries
- ◆ Prevent the flu
- ◆ Reduce infant mortality
- ◆ Improve health literacy

Health issues of concern to and discussed with members were:

- ◆ ARKids tremendous improvement in Arkansas children's health
- ◆ HIV/Aids HIV/Aids deaths have decreased, but new cases have increased
- ◆ Suicides a major problem among young people
- ◆ Rural healthcare in relation to access and shortage of rural physicians
- ◆ Trauma system has made a huge life-saving improvement in getting people to treatment fast
- ◆ Tobacco use smoking has decreased per capita
- ◆ Slow licensing process for physicians moving to Arkansas from out of state

Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Public Health Practice, Review of Rules & Regulations Pertaining to Administration of Vital Records & Reporting of Intentional Terminations of Pregnancy (EXHIBIT D)

Robert Brech, Chief Financial Officer, Arkansas Department of Health, presented the proposed revision of the rules and regulations pertaining to Vital Records and the reporting of Intentional Terminations of Pregnancy.

These revisions will clarify the requirement to report all induced terminations of pregnancy on the revised form, and delete repetitive rules in the communicable disease section.

Representative Linck stated that without objection this rule will stand as reviewed.

Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Review of State Plan Amendment 2013-024 and Prosthetics 5-13 (EXHIBIT E)

Marilyn Strickland, Chief Operating Officer, and Tami Harlan, Assistant Director, Policy, Programs & Contracts Oversight Unit, both with Division of Medical Services, Department of Human Services; presented the proposed change to State Plan Amendment 2013-024. This proposed change will allow coverage of the MIC-KEY Percutaneous Cecostomy Tube for all ages.

Representative Linck stated that without objection this rule will stand as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Solid Waste Division, Review of Regulation No. 11 Regarding Solid Waste Management Fees, Funds, and Grants (EXHIBIT F)

Karen Bassett, Chief Deputy Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, presented these proposed changes that will incorporate statutory changes that amend various provisions of the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Fund Act.

Representative Linck stated that without objection this rule will stand as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Regulated Storage Tanks Division, Review of Regulation No. 12 Regarding Regulated Storage Tanks (EXHIBIT G)

Karen Bassett, Chief Deputy Director, and Joe Hooper, Chief, Storage Tank Division, both with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, presented these proposed changes that will incorporate the statutory changes passed by the General Assembly that amend various provisions of the Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund Act.

Representative Linck stated that without objection this rule will stand as reviewed.

Other Business

Senator Flowers requested that the Arkansas Insurance Commissioner, Andy Allison, and John Selig be present at the next meeting to explain how Arkansas' Medicaid Expansion approved a contract that allowed the inclusion of dental and vision benefits, when all of the other insurance contracts did not include these additional benefits. Representative Linck agreed to take this request under consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

DRAFT