

EXHIBIT C

MINUTES

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

April 4, 2016

The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare and Labor met Monday, April 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Public Health Senate Members Attending Were: Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; Stephanie Flowers, Vice Chair; Scott Flippo, Keith Ingram, Missy Irvin, and Gary Stubblefield.

Public Health House Members Attending Were: Representatives Kelley Linck, Chair; Deborah Ferguson, Vice Chair; Mary Bentley, Justin Boyd, Ken Bragg, David Branscum, Charlene Fite, Kim Hammer, Ken Henderson, Stephen Magie, David Meeks, Josh Miller, Betty Overbey, John Payton, Dan Sullivan, and Richard Womack.

Other Legislators Attending Were: Senators Linda Chesterfield, and Jonathan Dismang. Representatives Nate Bell, Karilyn Brown, Jim Dotson, Charlotte Vining Douglas, Justin Gonzales, Sheilla Lampkin, Julie Mayberry, Micah Neal, Mathew Pitsch, James Ratliff, Laurie Rushing, and Sue Scott.

Comments by the Chairs

Senator Cecile Bledsoe called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the March 3, 2016 Meeting (EXHIBIT C)

Without objection, the minutes from the March 3, 2016, meeting were approved.

BRIEF DISCUSSION & ADOPTION FOR STUDY: ISP2015-164 – “An Act to Amend the Prescriptive Authority of an Advanced Practice Nurse; and For Other Purposes.” Sponsor, Representative Kim Hammer. (EXHIBIT I)

Representative Kelley Linck moved that without objection, ISP2015-164 will be moved to the top of today’s agenda and be adopted for interim study. The motion passed and Senator Bledsoe stated that ISP2015-164 will be sent to the House and Senate Health Services Subcommittee for Interim Study.

Update on Tick-Borne Diseases in Arkansas (Handout #1)

Gary Wheeler, M.D., Arkansas Health Department (ADH), presented the April, 2016 update on Tick-Borne Diseases. Mr. Wheeler stated that ticks continue to be one of the biggest health problems in Arkansas. He presented background information on tick-borne diseases, and gave an overview of this problem.

Dr. Wheeler listed seven causes for the increased number of insect/arthropod diseases (i.e. mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, etc). Four tick-borne diseases are listed below:

◆ **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**

- The most severe tick-borne illness in the United States
- A seasonal disease (April-September), mostly seen in the south-atlantic states
- Recommended treatment: doxycycline--*early!*

◆ **Ehrlichiosis**

- Transmitted by the Lone Star Tick
- Seen mostly in the southern, eastern, and south-central United States
- PCR tests need to be done early, and followed up with blood tests
- Recommended treatment: doxycycline

◆ **Tularemia**

- Humans can be infected in many ways (including bioterrorism)
- Some of the fatal symptoms are pneumonia, sepsis, GI sx's, and meningitis--to name a few
- A clinical or culture should be done as soon as possible, followed up with blood tests
- Recommended treatment: gentamicin IV or doxycycline

◆ **Lyme Disease**

- Seen almost entirely in the Northeast part of the United States (currently rare in Arkansas)
- Transmitted by infected blacklegged ticks
- Recommended treatment: doxycycline or amoxicillin

As recommended by the Arkansas Health Department, the preferred method to remove a tick is using a pair of tweezers to pull it out.

Update on Nutrition and Physical Education Standards (Required by Act 1220 of 2003) (Handout #2)

Brett Stone, Ph.D., Chair, Child Health Advisory Committee, updated the committees on the nutritional and physical education standards in Arkansas. Assisting Dr. Stone in his presentation are Joy Rockenbach, BSE, Coordinator of Act 1220 of 2003, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); Jerri Clark, School Health Services Director, School Health Services, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE); and Cory Biggs, Staff Attorney, Specialist and Coordinator of Special Projects, Arkansas Department of Education.

Dr. Stone announced there are changes in Arkansas's nutrition and physical activity programs coming soon to the Arkansas public schools. The Governor has launched his Healthy Arkansas plan, and it will be rolled out within the next few months. For those not familiar with Act 1220, Dr. Stone explained the contents of the act, and then listed the goals of Act 1220:

- ◆ To increase awareness of childhood obesity and environmental factors contributing to the problem
- ◆ To enhance parental knowledge
- ◆ To make informed community choices
- ◆ To improve nutrition and physical activity agendas in Arkansas schools
- ◆ To have a long-term impact on childhood obesity

As a result of Act 1220, schools were able to generate a health report to the parents of each child; as well as a school, district, and state report. The funding source for the Child Health Advisory Committee is the Tobacco Settlement Fund (5% of the funds going to the Arkansas Department of Health, help to fund the Child Health Advisory Committee, including some of their administrative costs).

Ms. Rockenbach stated that the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) is responsible for collecting the Body Mass Index (BMI) data received from Arkansas public schools. After raising awareness of the child obesity problem in 2003 and making changes to diet and exercise programs in the schools; the rise in obesity leveled out and there was even a slight drop in childhood obesity. Arkansas is number one in the nation in obesity for adults and children. Currently 22% of Arkansas schools have reported they buy fresh fruit and vegetables from local vendors and these local sales net approximately one quarter of a million dollars for Arkansas farmers.

Mr. Biggs presented an overview on the updated nutrition and physical activity standards rules. The Arkansas State Board of Education approved (with revisions) these newly drafted rules for public comment on November 12, 2015. They will be considered for final approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education on April 14, 2016.

Representative Justin Boyd stated that he currently has an Interim Study Proposal on this same issue, and it has been referred to Representative Jim Dotson's Economic and Tax Committee.

Ms. Clark stated that the Arkansas Department of Education is working in collaboration with the School Health Services on a program that is to prevent and reduce obesity. Recently the ADE was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the 'Blue and You Foundation'. This will further enable Physical Education (PE) teachers to help students attain and keep a healthy BMI. This money will provide for:

- ◆ Further training of Arkansas PE teachers (annually)
- ◆ Needed physical education equipment for classroom use
- ◆ Free curricula

The Center for Distance Health at UAMS has asked the Arkansas Department of Education to collaborate with them on a grant funding opportunity, which is through the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HERSA) agency. UAMS has applied for this grant and is awaiting a decision on funding. This grant will be used to promote telemedicine services through some of our school-based health centers; and the main focus of this program will be to reduce, prevent, and treat obesity through telemedicine.

Dr. Stone will provide the committees with a copy of the report that the Child Health Advisory Committee submits to the State Department of Education.

Review of the Medicaid Quarterly Financial Report, 2nd Quarter of SFY2016, October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 (As Required by A.C.A. 20-77-111) (EXHIBIT F)

Mark Story, Chief Fiscal Officer, Division of Medical Services, and Dawn Stehle, Director, Division of Medical Services, both with the Department of Human Services; presented the Medicaid quarterly report. Mr. Story stated that Arkansas Medicaid continues to grow at a slow rate.

Representative Nate Bell asked for the number of children who are covered by ARKids, with parents who are covered by the private option. He also requested the year-to-date amount of expenditure for the ARKids program. Mr. Story agreed to provide that information.

Update on Activities of the Office of Medicaid Inspector General

Elizabeth Smith, Medicaid Inspector General, Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG), and Bart Dickinson, Chief Counsel, Office of the Medicaid Inspector General; presented an update on the activities of this office. Ms. Smith discussed program integrity within and between the agencies and providers, and stated that OMIG is conducting a Provider Audit.

Ms. Smith discussed a number of programs within DHS where changes could be initiated now to start saving the state money. One program that is currently being reviewed by OMIG is Group Psychotherapy for Children and Adults, Code 90853 in the RSPMI program. Some of the other programs to be reviewed are dual eligibles, individual therapy, and prescription opioids.

Update on Medicaid Newborn Processing Eligibility (Handout #3)

Mary Franklin, Interim Director, Division of County Operations, Department of Human Services, presented an update on the progress of processing the backlog of eligible newborns, along with the newborns that are born daily. Ms. Franklin stated that as of Friday, April 1, 2016, there are only 74 of the original list of backlogged newborns left to process. These remaining 74 will be processed after the data errors are corrected. The errors are currently being fixed and the newborns are being authorized for benefits.

Representative Hammer requested that Ms. Franklin present an updated report to the committees two months from now, to ensure this division is able to keep the processing of eligible newborns current.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.