

**MINUTES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Monday, November 20, 2023

10:00 AM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Representatives Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair; Julie Mayberry, Vice-Chair; Matt Brown, Joey Carr, Matt Duffield, Hope Duke, Rick McClure, Stetson Painter, Shad Pearce, Aaron Pilkington, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, and Trey Steimel

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Alan Clark, Jim Dotson, Kim Hammer, Fredrick Love, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Mary Bentley, Stan Berry, Kenneth Ferguson, Tippi McCullough, and Johnny Rye

Representatives Barker called the meeting to order.

Presentation by Family Connect International [Exhibits B1-B3]

Melea Waters, Senior Policy Director, Family Connects International, gave an overview of the Family Connects Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Model. This program is designed to support optimal maternal-child health and advance equitable outcomes.

Presentation by Family Connects Union County

Heidi Klappenback, Nurse Supervisor, Family Connects Union County; Haden Lee, Nurse Home Visitor, Family Connects Union County; and Alison Stone, Community Alignment Specialist, Family Connects Union County; stated that Family Connects is a free program to all families with a newborn residing in Union County regardless of income, status, or the number of children. The program provides supportive guidance to families to help parents connect with their infant.

Discussion of Certified Nurse-Midwives and Perinatal Wellbeing in Arkansas [Exhibit D]

Brennan Straka, Co-Founder, Hearthside Perinatal Program, discussed the pilot program in Northwest Arkansas that would provide supplemental care to women with high-risk pregnancies. The program will offer in-home prenatal and postpartum visits.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.