

# Exhibit B

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**  
**HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH**  
**LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
Meeting Jointly  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Room 151, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas

The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 151 of the State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present were: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair, Jack Crumbly, Vice-Chair, Jimmy Jeffress Sue Madison and Eddie Joe Williams; Representatives Stephanie Malone, Chair, David "Bubba" Powers, Vice-Chair, Lori Benedict, Bruce Cozart, Gary Deffenbaugh, Billy W. Gaskill, Justin T. Harris, Jon Hubbard, Loy Mauch, and David Meeks.

Other legislators present were: Senators Jonathan Dismang, Mike Fletcher, Johnny Key and Michael Lamoureux; Representatives Duncan Baird, Tommy Baker, Nate Bell, Jerry Brown, John Burris, Larry Cowling, Buddy Lovell, Mike Patterson, Tracy Pennartz, Johnnie Roebuck, Tommy Thompson and Charolette Wagner.

Representative Stephanie Malone called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Adopt the Minutes of December 13, 2011**

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Consideration to Adopt Interim Study Proposal 2011-194 (REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE, SPECIFICALLY HOW FALSE REPORTS MADE TO THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE ARE HANDLED)**

Senator Jimmy Jeffress asked that ISP 2011-194 be adopted today to be discussed at a later date. Representative Benedict made a motion that the proposal be adopted and was seconded by Representative Mauch. The motion carried.

**Ron Angel, Director, Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Youth Services (DYS) DYS Quarterly Performance Report, October 2011-December 2011**

Mr. Angel said currently there are 743 youth in custody, 84% are predominately male, with 39% committed for misdemeanor offenses, 54% are over the age of 16. More serious offenses (felonies) are being committed requiring longer lengths of stay. Approximately 30% of youth being committed are 17+ years of age or older, many because of probation revocations. Most of the facilities are designed for treatment of youth, allowing limited space for this age group. Mr. Michael Harris, Senior Attorney, National Center for Youth Law was recognized and will offer his assistance concerning the disproportionate minority contacts and data gathering. Representative Powers asked for the antidote for reducing the number of kids at juvenile detention centers (JDC). Mr. Angel said he is reducing the Alexander population from 100 to 70, opening an intake unit of 30 beds. Once a youth is committed, they will come directly to Alexander and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) will do an assessment to include a physical exam. There will be 30 transition beds, shifting everything from the

kids being in a JDC to getting immediate treatment. Representative Powers asked Mr. Angel for recommendations to get youth out of JDC. Mr. Angel said he needed more community services. He stated that more community services are needed so that judges will have more flexibility in dealing with youth, more short term treatment in communities and counseling for families. Many of the youths come from dysfunctional homes and it would be beneficial to put more emphasis on treating the youth and the family at the same time.

Representative Roebuck asked about reducing the number of beds at Alexander and its effect on the contract and when will the new contract start. Mr. Angel said as soon as an agreement is reached. If an agreement is not reached, it will be done as a RFP. Representative Roebuck asked the cost to G4S per bed. Mr. Angel said the cost is \$249 per day. **Representative Roebuck asked if the contract with G4S would be reduced and if so, by how much. Mr. Angel said he would submit that information to Representative Roebuck.**

**Senator Irvin asked for a demographic study on the families of youth committed to DYS with information to be sent to the BLR staff. Representative Powers asked that the education levels of the guardians of the youth in custody be included. Representative Mauch asked the information include whether the youth is an inner city youth versus a rural youth.**

Senator Madison asked how many of those committed had a previous history of open cases at DCFS or have had parental rights terminated. Mr. Angel said approximately 50% of the youth in custody are DCFS youth. Senator Madison asked if cases are being turned over and over. Senator Madison asked Mr. Harris if Arkansas' laws regarding juveniles are consistent with other states. Mr. Harris said he did not have statistics concerning this issue but stated that in addition to analyzing a comparison of the laws of this state with those of other states, it would also be necessary to evaluate the way in which those laws are applied by the judiciary. He noted that both factors come into play in terms of who is ultimately committed to the system. Representative Baker asked about trends in population of male versus female. Mr. Angel noted, there has been a slight upturn in female commitments but it is cyclical. Mr. Angel said the Youth Advocacy Program (YAP) is being used in the four judicial districts. YAP is a program where advocates actually work with the family in the home to make sure the youth goes to school and provides family counseling as well as other services. This program has been very successful.

**Cecile Blucker, Director, DHS, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Quarterly Report (SFY), First Quarter, 2012) July 2011-September 2011**

Ms. Blucker said the report has three components: Performance Indicators-which provide information on service outcomes; Compliance Index-which reports on the Division's compliance with requirements set by DFCS with guidance from the Arkansas Legislative Children and Youth Committees; and Description of Population and Services, which describes the children who were the subject of maltreatment reports, were served in foster care and/or were provided adoption services. Representative Harris questioned the adoption process, in particular the length of time and cost of adoption. Ms. Blucker said the process and length of time is necessary to ensure the family is acceptable to adopt a child. Senator Irvin suggested that the issue of adoption be discussed at a future meeting. Senator Crumbly asked about reimbursement for foster parents being decreased. Ms. Blucker said the board payments for foster parents remain the same. The board payment that was attached to therapeutic foster homes was \$74. That has changed and can vary from \$18 to \$48 a day. She noted that in addition to that amount, the state pays a standard board payment of \$410-\$500 for each child in the foster home.

Senator Madison asked how many children are available for adoption. Ms. Blucker said there are 394 children that are legally free for adoption and their ages are 0-1 years of age (16%), 2-5 years of age (37%), 6-11 years of age (35%), 12-15 years of age (10%), 16 or older (2%). Ms. Blucker said there are 121 youth living in pre-adoptive placements. Some of the reason children entered care was neglect by parents (57%) drug abuse by parents (42%), incarceration of parents (23%) or physical abuse (16%). Senator Williams asked about investigations being done in a timely manner. Ms. Blucker stated the initiation of investigations

are done in a timely manner to ensure the safety of the child, but social workers are keeping their notes and not documenting them immediately or within the 30 days required. With 120 investigators, 6,000 investigations to document for the quarter, plus investigations to document from the previous quarter, there is a large amount of information to be entered. Ms. Blucker said she would rather they initiate investigations over entering data.

**Dixie Wallace, Nursing Services Unit Manager, DHS, Division of Medical Services, Medicaid In-State and Out-of-State Inpatient Psychiatric Placement Report, December 2011 and Year-to-Date Paid Claims July 2011-December 2011**

Ms. Wallace stated for December, 2011, there were 1,610 recipients in-state, 256 out-of-state with 8 that were outside the bordering states of Arkansas, 244 were in Missouri and Oklahoma. **Representative Roebuck asked for an annual report and how many facilities are being utilized by the outside Arkansas residential program.** Ms. Wallace said she would send that information.

**DCFS, Out of State Placement Report, December 2011**

Senator Irvin said the total for the Out-of-State Placement Report was zero for December, 2011.

**Christin Harper, DCFS, Manager, Policy Unit, Review of Rules**

Ms. Harper said DCFS issues proposed changes to Policy and Publication to include:

- *Clarifications to Policy VIII-L: subsidized Guardianship regarding eligibility requirements and payment structure per Administration for Children and Families' request*
- *Additions of "school official" and "school" to Appendix I: Glossary*
- *Revised and new notification forms for juvenile offenders*
- *Revisions to Procedure XIV-A4: Notices of True Investigative Findings and Procedure XIV-A5: Notice of Unsubstantiated Allegation of Child Maltreatment to include references to revised and new notification forms for juvenile offenders*
- *Clarification on adoption Assistance Agreement for State Funded Subsidies that agreement will remain in effect until the child's eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday (as opposed to one year only)*
- *Questions added on form for In Home Consultation Visits to collect information on provisional placement date (if applicable) and applicants training time preferences*

Representative Harris asked about subsidized guardianship. Ms. Harper said subsidized guardianship provides a permanency option for children in care, for whom reunification or adoption is not appropriate.

**Debbie Roark, Administrator, Arkansas State Police (ASP), Crimes Against, Children Division, Crimes Against Children, Quarterly Performance Report, October 2011-December 2011**

Ms. Roark said that for the second quarter of 2011, 1,345 investigation were initiated, with 40% being substantiated as true. The hot line received 14,982 calls with 9,170 being accepted as investigations. Ms. Roark noted that, as requested by this committee, today's report and future reports will continue to have the counties served, broken down by area. Representative Meeks asked if the Crimes Against Children Division investigated human trafficking. Ms. Roark said the division was aware of this issue. Ms. Lisa McGee said she recently participated in a work group meeting with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on human trafficking to look at possible changes in legislation. Ms. McGee said she would like to do a presentation to the committees before the regular session. Senator Irvin said she would work with staff to have human trafficking placed on the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.