

Exhibit B.3

MINUTES
SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH,
LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
August 16, 2012

The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 151 of the State Capitol Building in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present were: Senator Missy Irvin; Chair, Jack Crumbly, Vice-Chair, and Eddie Joe Williams; Representatives David "Bubba" Powers, Vice Chair, Lori Benedict, Bruce Cozart, Efrem Elliott, Kim Hammer, Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson, Jon Hubbard, Loy Mauch, David Meeks, Gary Stubblefield, and Tim Summers. Other legislators present: Representatives Larry Cowling, Allen Kerr, Mary Slinkard, and Henry "Hank" Wilkins.

Senator Missy Irvin called the meeting to order.

Consideration of the Minutes of July 18, 2012
The minutes of July 18, 2012 were approved.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Youth Services (DYS), Ron Angel, Director Quarterly Performance Report, January, 2012 through March, 2012 and Quarterly Performance Report, April, 2012 through June, 2012

Mr. Angel noted that in the third quarter of FY 2012, the number of juvenile offenders in state custody decreased from 743 in the previous quarter to 692. He further noted that for youth committed during this quarter, basic demographic characteristics remain unchanged. He shared that youth committed to custody are predominately male (80%), under half (44%) committed were for misdemeanor offenses, and over half (53%) are sixteen years of age or older at time of commitment. Twenty four (24) incidents of suspected abuse or neglect were referred to the Arkansas State Police (ASP) during the quarter and of those incidents, ASP determined that six (6) merited an investigation.

Mr. Angel stated that he will investigate the imbalance of commitments of African-American and other races. Senator Williams asked that Mr. Angel share his findings with the committee.

Representative Hammer asked, " of the noted sex offenses committed, were they by a perpetrator inside the home or by someone outside of the home". Mr. Angel said he would forward that information to the committee.

Representative Hammer asked about the education level of sexual offenders. Mr. Angel said he would get the IQ or level of education and send it to Ms. Vickers Smith.

Representative Elliott asked about after care available for 14-18 year olds. Mr. Angel said there is a group of providers that serve every Judicial District within the state. These resources include a mentoring program called Youth Advocacy Program (YAP) and Multiple Systemic Therapy (MST). Approximately one-half of the DYS budget goes to community resources.

Representative Elliott asked about the success rate of rehabilitation of juvenile sex offenders. Mr. Angel said the success rate was high as the recidivism rate is at 38%.

Transitional Living Program

Ms. Valarie Dunn with Health Resources of Arkansas was recognized. Ms. Dunn is also president of the Arkansas Youth Service Providers Association. Representative Benedict asked Ms. Dunn what are some of the alternatives to DYS. Ms. Dunn said that statistics show that investments in community resources lower commitment numbers. **Representative Benedict asked for information concerning the progress made in lowering commitments when there are more funds available.** Representative Benedict asked Ms. Dunn to provide the information to the committee.

Mr. Angel noted that the use of community based programs has increased. Ms. Dunn explained that community based resources work with the entire family through referrals. These programs get involved before matters get to court. Intensive case management is provided. There is also intensive follow-up after a youth is committed to DYS, to make sure families comply with all of the laws and the requirements of the court. These programs provide job training and self-esteem workshops to assist in helping juveniles establish goals and becoming productive members of society.

Representative Hammer asked Mr. Angel and Ms. Dunn, "what is the source of their funding". Mr. Angel said 92% of his budget is State General Revenue and the remaining 8% is recovered from Medicare money. Ms. Dunn said for this particular program, the money comes from Mr. Angel. If a child has Medicaid, we access that first, that is, we access other resources before using DYS funding. **Representative Hammer asked Ms. Dunn for the breakdown of where her funding comes from. Senator Irvin asked that this information be shared with the staff for distribution to the committee.**

DHS, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Cecile Blucker, Director
Quarterly Performance Report, January, 2012 through March, 2012

Ms. Blucker explained that the report is divided into three sections:

- Performance Indicators, which provides information on service outcomes
- Compliance, which reports on the division's compliance with requirements set by DCFS with guidance from the Arkansas legislative committees on Children and Youth
- Demographics that include description of the population served and services offered. This part of the report describes the children who were the subject of maltreatment reports, and those who were served in foster care and/or were provided adoption services

During the third quarter there were 8,860 referrals of child maltreatment. Ninety-four percent of the Priority I assessments were initiated timely and 82% of the Priority II assessments were initiated timely. Sixty percent of Priority I assessments were completed within the required 30 day period and 59% of the Priority II assessments were completed within this timeframe. It was noted that during this quarter, 1060 children entered the foster care system and 943 children exited the system. At the end of the month, there were 4,048 children in care. Ms. Blucker noted that the top three reasons for entry into the system were neglect, substance abuse and incarceration of parents. She noted that there were 12 child fatalities and 2 near fatalities during the quarter. Of the child fatalities, 4 were due to inadequate supervision, 4 were physical abuse, 1 was a natural cause, 1 was an accidental drowning and 2 were undetermined. The Family Service Worker case loads at the end of the quarter were 28.4 per worker.

Representative Meeks asked about couples who may be interested in adoption, but are not being allowed to adopt. Ms. Blucker acknowledged that there is frustration with how long it takes to complete an adoption however; the agency needs to be sure that the proper family is selected for the child.

Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Debbie Roark, Investigations Administrator

Oversight Report, April, 2012 through June, 2012

Ms. Roark was recognized and introduced the new commander of the CACD, Captain Ron Stayton. The committee welcomed Mr. Stayton.

Ms. Roark stated that the CADC initiated 1,516 investigations in this quarter and closed 1,477 investigations with a 44% substantiation rate. She further noted that the hot line received 15,766 calls with 9,676 being accepted for investigation.

Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review Program, Dr. Pamela Tabor, Director
Annual Report for State Fiscal Year 2011

Dr. Tabor began by saying that in 2005, the legislature passed a law that amended Act 1818 to form the Child Death Review Panel. In 2011 they became funded through the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Child Death Review Program began. The program is a collaboration between University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, (UAMS), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Injury Prevention Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital. The program requires review of all unexpected deaths of children in Arkansas and utilizes the information obtained to work on prevention strategies. Funding for 2011 was \$128,500.

Review of Rules: DCFS, Cecile Blucker

Ms. Blucker directed the committee to CFS-466, In-Home Consultation Visit Report which is the form that serves as the Foster/Adoptive Parent Application, and noted the change, adding a section to list any medications that the foster or adoptive parents are currently taking and the conditions for which those medications are prescribed.

She further noted the change to the Foster Parent Handbook, (Pub-030) revising the requirement for CPR and First Aid classes for foster and adoptive homes, to allow online classes provided:

- The courses are offered through the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association; and
- Participants demonstrate skills learned through the online training portion of the course in the presence of a certified instructor in order to complete the certification process

Finally, Ms. Blucker described CFS-100, Differential Response Program rule which creates new policies, procedures, and associated forms to allow DCFS to implement and administer the Differential Response Program thereby providing an alternative (i.e., non-investigative) response to certain low-risk child maltreatment allegations.

Items G.1, G.2, and G.3 were reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.