

EXHIBIT B

MINUTES

SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Meeting Jointly

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 1:00 p.m.

Room 130, 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 Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 130 at the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present were: *Senator* Jane English. *Representatives* David Meeks, Chair; Charles Armstrong, John Baine, Ken Bragg, Jody Dickinson, Deborah Ferguson, Justin Harris, Mike Holcomb, Charlene Fite, Pat Julian, Mary Broadway, and Sue Scott.

Non-Committee members present were: *Representatives* Scott Baltz, David Fielding, Kim Hammer, Homer Lenderman, Mark Lowery, Stephanie Malone, Micah Neal, and Mary Slinkard.

Representative D. Meeks called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Minutes of March 20, 2014 [EXHIBIT B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Consideration to adopt Interim Study Proposal 2013-190 (ISP) [EXHIBIT C]

Representative Fite gave a brief overview of ISP 2013-190. **Representative Harris made a motion to adopt ISP 2013-190. Without objection, the ISP was adopted by the Committee.**

Consideration to adopt ISP 2013-191 [EXHIBIT D]

Representative Fite gave a brief overview of ISP 2013-191. She stated that some of the language would be changed. **Colonel Don Barry, Member, Central Arkansas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America** was recognized and stated that language should be added to include total and permanent disable rather than temporary disablement. **Representative Julian made a motion to adopt ISP 2013-191. Without objection, the ISP was adopted by the Committee.**

Consideration to adopt ISP 2013-192 [EXHIBIT E]

Representative Fite gave a brief overview of ISP 2013-192. **Representative Harris made a motion to adopt ISP 2013-192. Without objection, the ISP was adopted by the Committee.**

Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review Program Annual Report (July 2013) as referred by Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) [EXHIBIT F]

Ms. Pamela Tabor, Program Director, Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review Program (ICDR)/Injury Prevention Center; and Martin Mays, Program Director, Arkansas Children’s Hospital were recognized and presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “Keeping Kids Alive in Arkansas”.

Ms. Tabor explained, that Act 1818 of 2005 created the Arkansas Child Death Review Panel (ACDRP). The purpose of the ACDRP is to identify the causes of death of children under 18 years of age and reduce the incidence of injury and death to children by requiring a death review to be performed in all cases of unexpected deaths. Arkansas is the 49th state to comply with reviewing deaths. ICDR’s purpose is to improve the response to pediatric fatalities, provide accurate information on how/why Arkansas children are dying, reduce the number of pediatric deaths, and provide training and support to local ICDR teams and professionals involved with the health, safety and well-being of children. ICDR sets up multi-disciplinary teams to review deaths across the state. Some of ICDR goals include: identification of prevention and intervention strategies and adding the 8th team for fiscal year (FY) 2015—that will cover 40 counties which equals 75% of all children’s deaths under the age of 18 years of age. An additional goal for FY 2015 includes adding a 9th team to review all infant deaths that are outside of the established team’s case load. Ms. Tabor reported that a key component of ICDR is to provide sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) investigation training for coroners and some law enforcement personnel on how and why to utilize the SUID form and doll re-enactment.

Representative Meeks asked does ICDR review the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) fatality reports. Ms. Tabor replied, DCFS is an open book to ICDR, noting that DCFS enters their data into ICDR data system prior to ICDR’s investigations. **Without objection, the report was reviewed by the Committee.**

Department of Human Services (DHS), DCFS Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) (QPR), 2nd Quarter SFY 2014 (October-December 2013) [EXHIBIT G]

Ms. Beki Dunagan, Assistant Director, DCFS was recognized to present the QPR. She stated, the Committee had previously requested information pertaining to caseloads by counties. Referencing page 28 of the report, Ms. Dunagan reported, the average caseload statewide stood at just over 27 cases per worker at the end of the quarter. DCFS was assigned 6,518 maltreatment reports of which, 5,473 were assigned to investigations, and 1,045 reports were assigned to Differential Response (DR). According to Ms. Dunagan, the number of reports assigned for DR has steadily increased due to the program being statewide. She attributed the change in the law as the reason for the decrease with the timely completion of maltreatment assessments. It was noted that DCFS completed 70% of its investigations on time (within 45 days of receipt of the report) during the quarter, a decrease from the previous quarter.

Representative Harris asked if an extra 15 days were added to complete the investigations on time in addition to the 45 days. Ms. Dunagan replied, “yes sir” under the policy, there are certain circumstances or standards that must meet the requirements to receive the additional 15 days on top of the 45 days. Referencing Exhibit G, page 4, Representative Harris asked how many of

DCFS assessments had received the additional 15 days. **Ms. Dunagan replied, “I don’t know that answer” but I can get the answer and submit it to the Committee.**

Ms. Dunagan stated, during the 2nd quarter of SFY 2014, more children were discharged from foster care than entered. This resulted in the net loss of 141 foster children during the quarter. With regards to the percentage of siblings in placement who are placed together, DCFS saw an increase with sibling visits and placements. At the end of the quarter, 74% of the children with siblings in foster care were placed with at least one of their siblings. Of those, 55% were placed with all of their siblings. According to Ms. Dunagan, during the last 4 quarters, DCFS has made progress with the length of time a child enters foster care to finalizing the adoption. She noted that DCFS finalized 210 adoptions during the quarter. Representative Baine asked the following questions:

- What will it take for DCFS to reach 100% compliance with initiating Priority I and II cases?
- Currently, how many working hours will it take for DCFS to become 100% in compliance with initiation of Priority I and II cases?
- What is being done to close the gap?

Ms. Dunagan replied, DCFS has been working on this issue. She stated, some of the problems exists with locating the family; and when DCFS receives the report. For example, if DCFS receives a report on the weekend the investigator does not have access to enter the school to initiate the interview. Ms. Dunagan reported, DCFS has implemented DR to increase the initiation rate. She added that DCFS is considering having on-call workers available to receive Priority II reports; currently on-call workers handle DR and Priority I reports. Ms. Dunagan will provide additional answers to committee staff for distribution. **Without objection, the report was reviewed by the Committee.**

DHS, Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBH), Child Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) Report Cards [EXHIBIT H, H-1

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Ms. Paula Stone, Assistant Director, DBH, was recognized and gave a brief overview of the reports. She stated, that providers hold regional planning team meetings to assemble everyone within the communities that may impact the treatment of a child with a behavioral health disorder. The team then works together to resolve child specific issues. **Without objection, the reports were reviewed by the Committee.**

DHS, Division of Youth Services (DYS), DYS Quarterly Performance Report, 3rd Quarter SFY 2014 (January-March 2014) [EXHIBIT I]

Mr. Tracy Steele, Director, DYS and Mr. Mickey Yeager, DYS, Quality Assurance Administrator was recognized and gave a brief overview of the report. Mr. Steele stated that not much had changed since their last presentation before the committee. Referencing page 8 of the report, the following information was noted:

- Last quarter, 11% of juvenile misdemeanor commitments to DYS were due to some type of property crime; Mr. Yeager noted juvenile commitments are up this quarter by 23%.
- Last quarter, 25% of youths committed to DYS were public order commitments; Mr. Yeager noted that this percentage decreased to 19% this quarter.
- Last quarter, 7% of commitments were felony drug commitments; Mr. Yeager noted that this quarter the number increased to 14%.
- Last quarter, 88% of juvenile commitments were for non-violent offenses; Mr. Yeager stated that 93% were committed this quarter for non-violent offenses.

According to Mr. Yeager, when compared to last year, the juvenile commitment percentage is about the same this year. In response to a question by Representative Meeks regarding the time when crimes are most often committed by juveniles and when DYS has an increase of commitments; Mr. Yeager replied, DYS monitors this information quarterly and yearly. he noted that DYS usually has an increase in juvenile commitments around the months of March, April and October. Mr. Steele added that DYS usually experiences an increase in juvenile commitments when school is out.

Referencing **Handout #4**, Mr. Steele informed the Committee that DYS has worked hard to meet core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program, and has regained its compliance status. JJDP supports state and local efforts in planning, operating, and evaluating projects that seek to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system and/or intervene with first-time and non-serious offenders, to provide services that maximize their chances of leading productive, successful lives. This program also provides funds (grants) to enhance the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system. Mr. Steele noted that after 2-years, DYS had its first grant-letting in February, and requested that Ms. Carmen Mosley-Sims be recognized to discuss this information.

Ms. Carmen Mosley Sims, Assistant Director-Community Services, DYS, was recognized and gave a brief overview of **Handout #4**. She reported, DYS and the Arkansas Juvenile Justice Board recently approved distribution of the JJDP grants. According to Ms. Sims, DYS received 65 letters of intent; 36 applicants applied for the grants, and 30 applications were approved for high quality programs. More than \$550,000 was distributed to non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, community service organizations, and state and local governments throughout the state. Ms. Sims reported that more than 7,000 children will be served and benefit from the prevention programs. She added that urban areas, Central Arkansas, Sebastian County and the Delta region had the greatest needs. Mr. Steele expressed that DYS would like to distribute this information to all members of the General Assembly and encouraged them to communicate this information to their local school districts, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, etc. **Without objection, the report was reviewed by the Committee.**
Arkansas State Police (ASP), Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Oversight Report (January-March 2014) [EXHIBIT J]

Captain Ron Stayton, Commander, ASP, CACD, was recognized. He gave a brief overview of the oversight report. Referencing the compliance outcome section, Captain Stayton stated that interviewing all caretakers and parents is an area that needs improvement. He explained that CACD interviewing policy differs from DCFS in that DCFS interviews all parents and caretakers whereas CACD only interviews them if there is a need. Referencing the investigation section, Captain Stayton reported, CACD initiated 1,371 investigations during the quarter and closed 1,171 cases with a 42% substantiation rate. There were 15,759 calls placed to the Child Abuse Hot Line of those 8,913 were accepted as valid child maltreatment reports and 1,666 reports were related to sexual and physical abuse. The total number of calls received from mandated reporters for the quarter totaled 4,665. Captain Stayton noted that the majority of these reports came from personnel associated with schools. The last section of the report lists the number of cases submitted to prosecuting attorneys by judicial district including the type of offense, the number of cases submitted and filed. Captain Stayton reported, 363 cases were submitted for charges of those: 129 charges were filed, 99 charges were dropped and 135 cases are pending.

Captain Stayton expressed that by the middle of June CACD will implement a new hotline answering system to assist individuals that speak Spanish. Some of the hotline issues being addressed include individuals not being prepared to provide the information that the hotline operator needs; and the lengthy intake process. Captain Stayton added that a meeting will be held with DCFS officials to discuss shortening the call wait time.

Mr. Gary Glisson, Hot Line Administrator, ASP, CACD, was recognized. He informed the Committee that he was hired as the Hot Line Administrator in 2007, and noted that a total of 50,000 calls were received for the year. Last year, 63,000 calls were received. Mr. Stayton noted that CACD is investigating how to best address issues internally. **Without objection, the report was reviewed by the Committee.**

Other Business

Representative Meeks reminded Committee members to submit their Interim Study Proposals for agenda items soon before the upcoming legislative session.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Representative Meeks announced that the Interim Senate Children and Youth and the House Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs Committees will meet and tour Fort Chaffee in Fort Smith, Arkansas on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 and on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, the Committees will meet in Fayetteville, Arkansas to tour the State Veterans Home located there.

Without further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.