

**Minutes**  
**Senate Committee on Children and Youth and the House Committee on**  
**Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Wednesday, July 20, 2016**

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The Senate Committee on Children and Youth and the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met jointly on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the State Capitol Building, Room 171, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: **Senators** Alan Clark, Jonathan Dismang, Linda Chesterfield and Missy Irvin. **Representatives** George B. McGill, Chair, Vivian Flowers, Justin T. Harris, Bob Johnson, Julie Mayberry, David Meeks, Marcus E. Richmond, Sue Scott, Brandt Smith, James Sturch, Dan Sullivan and Dave Wallace.

Non-committee members present: **Senators** Larry Teague and Jon Woods. **Representatives** Charles L. Armstrong, Scott Baltz, Jana Della Rosa, Charlotte Vining Douglas, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Jeremy Gillam, Michael John Gray, Kim Hammer, Greg Leding, Fredrick J. Love, Betty Overbey, James Ratliff, Nelda Speaks and James Sorvillo.

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

**Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Diane Robinson, Director, AOC, Office of Research and Justice Statistics** [Handout #1]

Senator Irvin recognized Ms. Robinson to present her report. The report was categorized by: age, delinquency, dependent/neglect and Family In Needs of Services (FINS). The report illustrates new cases verses those that are reopened. *See Handout #1 for the full report.*

**Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Appeals and Hearing (OAH), David Mackey, Administrative Law Judge, DHS, OAH** [Handout #2]

Senator Irvin recognized Mr. Mackey to present his report. The charts within the report illustrate all findings of child maltreatment during State Fiscal Year End (SFYE) 2015 and three quarters of SFYE 2016. He noted that the OAH is regulated by the Child Maltreatment Act. The report covered notice of appeal rights, due process, reconsideration and judicial review and case totals and outcomes. *See Handout #2 for the full report.*

Senator Chesterfield asked Mr. Mackey to provide the committee with a legislative solution to address overturned cases. Mr. Mackey agreed to review the Arkansas Code, specifically the Child Maltreatment Code and to get back with the committee regarding possible solutions.

**Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Oversight Report, January – March 2016, Major Ron Stayton, CACD** [Exhibit E]

Senator Irvin recognized Major Stayton to present his report. The report represents performance for the third quarter of the State Fiscal Year 2016. Each section of the report shows the performance indicators, followed by the individual sections' activity as follows: Compliance Rates, Child Abuse Hotline Reports, Investigations, Severe Physical & Sexual Abuse Allegations Reported by Type & Civilian Investigators' Activities, Allegation Types and Alleged Victim Children & Identified Alleged

Offender Relationships with Alleged Victim Children and Cases Submitted to Prosecuting Attorney.  
*See Exhibit E for the full report.*

Senator Irvin asked that someone with DHS follow up with the committee on the number of abuse allegations that result in children entering foster care.

### **Elder Justice Task Force**

Senator Irvin recognized Representative Grey Leding, Cindy Lyon, Rogers Counseling Services; Chris Arias, Program Director, UAMS-Behavior Health Unit; Peggy Martin, Community Liaison, Vantage Point Hospital; and Carol Tarvin, Community Senior Representative. They each provided testimony and shared their thoughts on Adult Protective Services (APS). Some of their recommendations included:

- mobile assessment units for diagnosing dementia patients
- more APS training for advocates and in general
- a review of the Public Guardianship Program (there is currently 1 public guardian in the state, there is a need for more public guardians to advocate for this population)

Senator Irvin recognized Craig Cloud, Director, DHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services. Mr. Cloud stated that the agency will be more than happy to provide an overview of its services, and some of the adjustments and changes that the agency has made. Mr. Cloud introduced Shannon Halijan, Program Manager, APS. She noted there are approximately 40 investigators statewide that serve APS. APS is currently investigating approximately 7,000 cases this year; this represents a 100% increase over last year.

### **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Treatment for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Dr. William Duncan, Patriot Clinics of Oklahoma** [Handouts 1 – 9]

Senator Irvin recognized Dr. Duncan. He presented a PowerPoint presentation on TBI and discussed the research that supports treating TBI with hyperbaric oxygen therapy. He also discussed numerous success stories of veterans who were treated with this therapy. *See Handouts 1 – 9 for the full detail of each handout.*

### **Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.