

**MINUTES**  
**HOUSE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, January 20, 2022**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Room B, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Committee members present: Representatives Julie Mayberry, Chair; Gayla H. McKenzie, Vice-Chair; Keith Brooks, Cindy Crawford, and Ashley Hudson

Other members present: Senators Bob Ballinger, Charles Beckham, Breanne Davis, Scott Flippo, Kim Hammer, Bart Hester, Mark Johnson, and Mathew Pitsch; Representatives Fred Allen, Karilyn Brown, Craig Christiansen, Cameron Cooper, Jim Dotson, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Denise Garner, Jimmy Gazaway, Justin Gonzales, Fredrick J. Love, Austin McCollum, Tippi McCullough, Stephen Meeks, Milton Nicks, Jr., Aaron Pilkington, Marcus E. Richmond, Jamie Scott, Matthew J. Shepherd, and Danny Watson

Representative Mayberry called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve the September 10, 2014, Meeting Minutes [EXHIBIT B]**  
Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Family Perspective of Waiver Services**

Lacey Sturch, parent of Gracia Sturch; and Ben and Karye Sturch, parents of a child with a disability, discussed their experiences with Medicaid Waiver Services.

**Presentation of Medicaid Waiver Services [EXHIBITS D1-D2]**

Lori Bowen, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, gave a presentation on Medicaid waiver services. Melissa Stone, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, Department of Human Services (DHS) discussed Medicaid Waiver Services within DHS.

**Providers Perspective of Waiver Services**

Larry Stang, President, Developmental Disabilities Provider Association; and Leah Henderson, Executive Director, Citivan Services, shared their perspectives as providers on Medicaid Waiver Services.

**Other Perspectives**

Syard Evans, CEO, Arkansas Support Network, President, Arkansas Waiver Association; and Dr. Jill Fussell, Section Chief, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas Children's Hospital, discussed the needs of Medicaid Waiver Services.

**Public Comment**

Jennifer Dixon, parent and caregiver of her adult son, Nicholas, shared her family's experiences with Medicaid Waiver Services and stated that she believes these services are vital for Arkansans and their families.

Ron Ekstrand, CEO, Easterseals Arkansas, Board Member, discussed individuals with disabilities who are able to join the workforce.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

DRAFT