

AGENDA
Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
Meeting Jointly

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

1:00 PM

Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sen. Cecile Bledsoe, Chair
Sen. Scott Flippo, Vice-Chair
Sen. Bart Hester
Sen. David Wallace
Sen. Breanne Davis
Sen. Kim Hammer
Sen. Dan Sullivan
Sen. Ben Gilmore

Rep. Jack Ladyman, Chair
Rep. Deborah Ferguson, Vice-Chair
Rep. Jeff Wardlaw
Rep. Jon S. Eubanks
Rep. Stephen Magie
Rep. Jim Dotson
Rep. Josh Miller
Rep. John Payton
Rep. Mary Bentley
Rep. Michelle Gray

Rep. Justin Gonzales
Rep. Justin Boyd
Rep. Fred Allen
Rep. Bruce Coleman
Rep. Aaron Pilkington
Rep. Carlton Wing
Rep. Clint Penzo
Rep. Mark Perry
Rep. Marsh Davis
Rep. Joe Cloud

A. Call to Order

B. Comments by the Chairs

1. Representative Jack Ladyman
2. Senator Cecile Bledsoe

C. Consideration to Adopt the August 2, 2021, Meeting Minutes (**EXHIBIT C**)

D. Covid-19 Update and Current Vaccination Rates/Covid Infection Rates by School District and Mask Requirements/Current Hospital Bed Capacities

1. Jennifer A. Dillaha, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Arkansas Department of Health
2. Joe Thompson, MD, MPH, Director, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
3. Bo Ryall, President and CEO, Arkansas Hospital Association
4. Jodiane Tritt, Executive Vice President, Arkansas Hospital Association

E. Discussion of Medical Marijuana Quality Control Program in Oklahoma

1. Clay Bullard, President, PGxMedical

F. Update on the State Insurance Department's Regulatory and Enforcement Authority Concerning Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) as defined in Act 994 of 2019 (**EXHIBIT F1**) (**EXHIBIT F2**)

1. Booth Rand, Managing Attorney, Arkansas Insurance Department
2. Beth Barrington, Pharmacy Benefits Manager, Arkansas Insurance Department

G. Update on Unemployment Insurance Program

1. Charisse Childers, PhD, Director, Division of Workforce Services, Department of Commerce

Note: All exhibits for this meeting are available by electronic means and are accessible on the General Assembly's website at www.arkleg.state.ar.us

Notice: Silence your cell phones. Keep your personal conversations to a minimum. Observe restrictions designating areas as 'Members and Staff Only'.

- H. Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of County Operations, Review of Rule regarding changes to Medical Services Policy Section B-220 Newborns which outlines the factors that are used to determine the eligibility of newborn categories. Newborns are guaranteed Medicaid coverage for the first year of life regardless of income changes. **(EXHIBIT H)**
1. Mark White, Chief of Legislative Affairs and Governmental Relations and Chief of Staff, DHS
 2. Mary Franklin, Director, Division of Country Operations, DHS
- I. Department of Human Services, Division of County Operations, Review of Rule which adjusts the sponsor deeming instructions to state that income and resource disregards may be applied for sponsor, and household size is counted according to modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) or supplemental security income (SSI) rules. This updates the Medical Services Policy Manual section E-300 from guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). **(EXHIBIT I)**
1. Mark White, Chief of Legislative Affairs and Governmental Relations and Chief of Staff, DHS
 2. Mary Franklin, Director, Division of County Operations, DHS
- J. Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule which updates the Physician Manual to clarify billing instructions when filing papers or electronic claims for anesthesia services. **(EXHIBIT J)**
1. Mark White, Chief of Legislative Affairs and Governmental Relations and Chief of Staff, DHS
 2. Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS
- K. Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule Regarding Hospital Acute Crisis Units. In an effort to fill gaps and improve continuity of behavioral health services, a new section is added in the Arkansas Medicaid Provider Manual to define the operation of acute crisis units in the hospital and critical hospital settings. **(EXHIBIT K)**
1. Mark White, Chief of Legislative Affairs and Governmental Relations and Chief of Staff, DHS
 2. Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS
- L. Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule which deals with the AR Choices in Homecare Renewal. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers for a period of 5 years. The AR Choices in Homecare expired 12-31-2020 and is currently operating under a temporary extension. This extension will allow DHS to align the waiver start date with the beginning of the state's fiscal year of 7-1-2021. **(EXHIBIT L)**
1. Mark White, Chief Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Office and Chief of Staff
 2. Patricia Gann, Deputy Director, Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services

M. Other Business

N. Adjournment