

REPORT OF THE
ARKANSAS HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE (AHIM) LEGISLATIVE
OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
Arkansas Legislative Council

August 23, 2019

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair

Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) Oversight Subcommittee met Monday, August 19, 2019, jointly with House and Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committees in Committee Room A of the Multi-Agency Complex (MAC) in Little Rock, Arkansas. The subcommittee heard testimony regarding the following items:

- 1) Allen Kerr, State Insurance Commissioner, reported that effective August 1, 2019, there were 54,963 people covered under health insurance plans purchased through the marketplace. He stated that the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) had a balance of \$4.3 million, which should pay for the marketplace operations over the next 7-8 years. The Commissioner also mentioned that the Arkansas Insurance Department has a set of proposed rules out for public comment on Multiple-Employer Welfare Benefit Plans (MEWA's). Commissioner Kerr noted that all persons obtaining insurance through the marketplace can choose from four (4) providers and preliminary rate changes range from .51% to 2.89% for Plan Year 2020.
- 2) Janet Mann, Director, Division of Medical Services, Department of Human Services (DHS), Dawn Stehle, Deputy Director for Health & Medicaid, DHS, and Kelley Linck, Chief Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, DHS; discussed the process of enrolling Medicaid providers, systematically reviewing Medicaid provider rates, and the status of the Medicaid Trust Fund.
- 3) Arthur Boutiette, Director, Disability Determination for the Social Security Administration, discussed the federal and state partnership in the operation of this agency.
- 4) Laura Shue, Stephanie Williams, James Bledsoe, and Greg Brown, all with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); gave an update of the Trauma System. It was noted that the coordination of transportation and care between hospitals has greatly improved, and the mortality rates of the patients involved has dramatically increased.
- 5) Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) (Former Director, ATSC), gave a brief review of the Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC) Annual Report for 2018.

- 6) Maurice Rigsby, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Relations, UAMS; gave a brief update on the activities of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council (Act 878 of 2019). He noted that Richard Smith, M.D., Chief of Psychiatry, UAMS, had recently visited the PACE Foundation in Arizona, which has funded research and clinics on the study of PANS/PANDAS.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Kim Hammer, Senate Co-Chair

Representative Deborah Ferguson, House Co-Chair