

**REPORT OF THE
HOSPITAL AND MEDICAID STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

June 19, 2020

Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw, Co-Chairs:

The Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee met Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 10:00 am, in Committee Room A in Little Rock.

The Subcommittee heard testimony regarding the following items:

1. Chet Stroyny, Program Manager, 3M Health Information System, spoke about how they assist state Medicaid Programs with measuring the quality of care and analyzing claims data to help hospitals and other healthcare providers improve the delivery of health care.
2. Jerilyn Jones, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Health Preparedness & Response Branch, Arkansas Department of Health, discussed about the Emergency Response Planning and how in January 2020 they estimated an additional 14,000 hospital beds would be needed in Arkansas in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. This included plans for 4 alternative care facilities with 2,200 beds which have not been activated yet.
3. Cam Patterson, MD, MBA, Chancellor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, discussed the Covid-19 modeling and how their model estimated a peak caseload in late September or early October of 2020.
4. Steppe Mette, MD, CEO, UAMS Medical Center, stressed that it is not just about bed capacity. It is about retaining healthy medical professionals with adequate personal protection equipment to serve these patients.
5. Larry Shackelford, President and CEO, Washington Regional Medical System, discussed that the positive testing for Covid-19 has gone from 2.3% rate in Mid-May to 15% positive rate in Mid-June. He also stressed their need for more front line health workers.
6. Troy Wells, President and CEO, Baptist Health, said they can add about 100 beds in their facilities around the state. He also said that they expect to lose \$85-100 million by the end of the year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.
7. Chris Barber, President and CEO, St. Bernard's Healthcare, said they are moving the lower level care COVID-19 patients to some of the smaller hospitals in the region. They have utilized the students from NY Institute of Technology-Osteopathic School in Jonesboro for testing Covid-19 patients.
8. Melissa Stone, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, DHS and Jerry Sharum, Director, Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance, DHS, discussed family visitation at the Human Development Centers.

Respectfully submitted by Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Senator Cheatham and Representative Fred Love.