

**MINUTES****SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & LABOR****Monday, November 1, 2021****1:00 PM****Room A, MAC****Little Rock, Arkansas**

Committee members present: Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; Breanne Davis, Kim Hammer, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Jack Ladyman, Chair; Mary Bentley, Joe Cloud, Bruce Coleman, Marsh Davis, Jim Dotson, Stephen Magie, John Payton, Clint Penzo, and Mark Perry

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Alan Clark, Trent Garner, and Larry Teague; Representatives Mark Berry, Stan Berry, Cameron Cooper, Vivian Flowers, David Hillman, Steve Hollowell, Fredrick Love, Austin McCollum, Tippi McCullough, David Ray, Keith Slape, and Danny Watson

Representative Ladyman called the meeting to order

**Approval of Minutes for the September 7, 2021 Meeting [Exhibit C]**

Representative Bentley made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Cloud, and the motion carried.

**Review of President Biden's Executive Order 14043 [Exhibit D]**

Ms. Jill Thayer, Legal Counsel to the Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, provided an overview of the committee's duties under Act 608 to consider President Biden's Executive Order 14043. Representative Bentley made a motion to request an opinion from the Attorney General's office, seconded by Representative Cloud, and the motion carried.

**Discussion of the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association Case of December 10, 2020**

Mr. Brad Nye, Legislative Director, Arkansas Attorney General's Office; and Ms. Shannon Halijan, Deputy Attorney General, Public Protection Division; discussed the steps for reviewing pending complaints received by the Attorney General's Office prior to the Supreme Court's decision.

**COVID-19 Guidance about Monoclonal Antibodies**

Mr. Greg Brown, HRP, Director of the Office of Preparedness & Emergency Response Systems; Ms. Cassie Cochran, MPH, Deputy Director for Public Health Programs; and Mr. Naveen Patil, MD, MHSA, MA, FACP, FIDSA, Deputy State Health Officer, Medical Director, Infectious Diseases; provided an update of the monoclonal antibodies treatment program.

**Update on the Arkansas Breast Milk Bank [Exhibit G, Handout 1]**

Ms. Misty Virmani, MD, Neonatologist, UAMS; Ms. Elizabeth Kim, MD, Neonatologist, UAMS; and Ms. Tonya Johnson, MS, RD, Director of Nutritional Services, UAMS; discussed the business plan for opening the Arkansas Breast Milk Bank and provided an overview of how the milk bank will impact the state.

**Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA) [Exhibit H]**

Mr. Jerry Adams, President, Arkansas Research Alliance; and Mr. Bryan Barnhouse, CEO, Arkansas Research Alliance; provided an overview of the ARA and discussed the organization's purpose.

**Report of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission (AMHC) on Health Disparities in Arkansas [Handout 2]**

Ms. Este Frazier, Interim Director, Arkansas Minority Health Commission, discussed the AMHC 2021 report.

**Report of Vision Screenings in Arkansas Public and Charter Schools for 2020-2021 School Year [Exhibit J]**

Ms. Cheria McDonald, BSN, RN, NCSN, School Nurse Consultant, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Arkansas Department of Education, discussed the annual summary report for vision screenings in school-age children.

**Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Review of Rule [Exhibit K]**

Mr. Mark White, Chief Legislative & Governmental Relations, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, DHS; Ms. Elizabeth Pittman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS; discussed the proposed rule regarding the extension of benefits for Acute Crisis Units and Substance Abuse Detoxification, and telemedicine for specific services.

Representative Ladyman stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Review of Rule [Exhibit L]**

Mr. Mark White Chief Legislative & Governmental Relations, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, DHS; Ms. Elizabeth Pittman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS; discussed the proposed rule dealing with State Plan Amendment 2021-0004 Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives and provider manual updates.

Representative Ladyman stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Review of Rule [Exhibit M]**

Ms. Laura Shue, JD, General Counsel, ADH; and Ms. Jamie Turpin, Administrator, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, ADH; discussed the proposed rule which would make miscellaneous correction to references and descriptions, insert definitions for clarification, and make revisions mandated by Act 62 of 2021.

Representative Ladyman stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**Arkansas Department of Health, Review of Rule [Exhibit N]**

Mr. Chuck Thompson, JD, Managing Attorney, ADH; and Mr. Bernard Beville, Radiation Control Section Chief, ADH; discussed the proposed rule pertaining to medical ionizing radiation and implements Act 268 of 2021.

Representative Ladyman stated that without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.