

MINUTES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Tuesday, August 31, 2021

9:00 am

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators David Wallace, Chair; Clarke Tucker, Vice Chair; Cecile Bledsoe, Alan Clark, and Breanne Davis; Representatives Charlene Fite, Chair; Mary Bentley, Mark Berry, Keith Brooks, Craig Christiansen, Joe Cloud, Marsh Davis, Tony Furman, Ashley Hudson, Julie Mayberry, Mark McElroy, Gayla McKenzie, Jon Milligan, Stu Smith, and Joy Springer

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Trent Garner, and Kim Hammer; Representatives Fred Allen, Stan Berry, Cameron Cooper, Gary Deffenbaugh, Jim Dotson, Denise Jones Ennett, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Frederick Love, Tippi McCullough, Johnny Rye, Jamie Scott, and Keith Slape

Representative Fite called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the December 14, 2020, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit C]

Senator Bledsoe made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative McElroy, and the motion carried.

Consideration to Adopt a Motion Authorizing Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committees

Representative Bentley made a motion authorizing the Chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the committees, seconded by Representative McElroy, and the motion carried.

Appointments to the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee

Senator Wallace made a motion to appoint Amanda Wilkerson to the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee, seconded by Senator Bledsoe, and the motion carried.

Senator Clark made a motion to appoint Glenn Hoggard to the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee, seconded by Representative McElroy, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Act 1230 of 2001 [Exhibit F]

Ed Holman, Chairman, Arkansas Residential Assisted Living Association; Scott Kingsborough, President, SJC Enterprises; Todd Hightower, Owner, Healthmark Services, Inc.; and Mike Shepard, Owner, Shepard Group LLC; discussed Act 1230 of 2001. This Act created an assisted living program within the Department of Human Services (DHS) that would allow residential care facilities to convert to assisted living facilities.

Discussion of Assisted Living Medicaid Funding [Exhibit G]

Mark White, Chief Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer and Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services (DHS), presented a comparison of costs/rates for nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Discussion of Assisted Living Facilities Statewide

Ed Holman, Chairman, Arkansas Residential Assisted Living Association; Scott Kingsborough, President, SJC Enterprises; Todd Hightower, Owner, Healthmark Services, Inc.; and Mike Shepard, Owner, Shepard Group LLC; presented a summary of the rate adjustments made by DHS and information regarding provider surveys.

Representative Hudson made a motion to review the rates by DHS with an eye towards increasing the rates for the assisted living facilities to be more commensurate with the actual costs of the program, seconded by Representative Mayberry, and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

DRAFT