

Minutes

Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth

House Interim Committee on

Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs

Meeting Jointly

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met jointly on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., at the State Capitol, Room 130, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senators Stephanie Flowers, Chair; Breanne Davis and Missy Irvin. **Representatives** Charlene Fite, Chair; David Meeks, Vice Chair; Charles Blake, LeAnne Burch, Frances Cavanaugh, Bruce Coleman, Milton Nicks, Jr., and Danny Watson.

Senator Flowers called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Minutes of September 12, 2018 [Exhibit C]

Without objection, the minutes of the September 12, 2018, meeting were approved.

Dementia Care Practice Guidelines [Handout 1]

Senator Flowers recognized Mr. David Cook, Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Arkansas Chapter, and Ms. Tina Hunter, Programs Director, Alzheimer's Association, Arkansas Chapter. Mr. Cook provided Handout 1 summarizing Alzheimer's Statistics in Arkansas:

- 2015: 2,802 people were in hospice care with a primary diagnosis of dementia
- 18% of people in hospice care have a primary diagnosis of dementia
- 2015: 1,510 emergency department visits per 1,000 people with dementia
- 2015: 1,457 total number of deaths from Alzheimer's disease
- 6th leading cause of death in Arkansas
- 4th highest Alzheimer's death in America
- 239% increase in Alzheimer's deaths since 2000
- 2018: \$353 million – Medicaid costs in caring for people with Alzheimer's (26.3% change from 2018 to 2025)
- 2017: \$21,361 per capita Medicare spending on people with dementia

The Alzheimer's Association was created in 1980 by a group of family caregivers and individuals interested in research with a mission focused on guidelines for dignity and support. Currently, there are over 5 million people living with this disease and as many as 16 million will have the disease by 2050. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementia is estimated to total \$277 billion in 2018, increasing to \$1.1 trillion by mid-century. Nearly one in every three seniors who die each year has Alzheimer's or another dementia. The association is partnering with the Department of

Human Services, as well as other state agencies and community partners, to update the Arkansas State Plan for Alzheimer's. The association will be looking at the standard of training for CNAs, EMTs and first responders as well as law enforcement in Arkansas. Dementia care is one of the most critical areas that the association is considering to provide a better standard of living for those individuals living with this disease.

Ms. Hunter provided background information on the Alzheimer's Association and its initiative to address the needs of individuals in the early stage of Alzheimer's or with dementia. In January 2006, the Association launched its Early-Stage Initiative and formed the National Early-Stage Advisory Group (ESAG). "Early-Stage" refers to people, no matter the age, who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders and are in the beginning stage of the disease.

Senator Flowers suggested that the association consider presenting this information to the Public Health Committee prior to the upcoming 2019 legislative session. *Please see Handout #1 for more information on the presentation.*

Representative Cavanaugh asked if there is any assistance for caregivers. Ms. Hunter provided the free 24/7 Helpline number (800.272.3900), staffed by master's-level clinicians and specialists, who provide confidential support and information to all those affected in over 200 languages.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE), Rules for Review: Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers; Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Family Homes; Minimum Licensing Requirements for Out of School Time Facilities; Minimum Licensing Requirement for Registered Child Care Family Homes [Exhibit E]

Senator Flowers recognized Mr. David Griffin, Assistant Director, Licensing and Accreditation, DHS-DCCECE and Ms. Beverly Wright, Program Manager, DHS-DCCECE. Mr. Griffin reviewed the following recommended changes:

- **Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers** regarding the requirements for insurance
- **Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Family Home** regarding the requirements for FBI background checks
- **Minimum Licensing Requirements for Registered Child Care Family Home** regarding the requirements for FBI background checks
- **Minimum Licensing Requirements for Out of School Time** regarding the requirements for insurance

Representative Meeks made a motion to consider the rules reviewed; Representative Fite seconded the motion, and without objection the rules were reviewed.

Annual Report of Garrett's Law Referrals for State Fiscal Year 2018 [Exhibit F]

Senator Flowers recognized Ms. Becky Dunagan, Deputy Director, DHS-Division of Children and Family Services. Ms. Dunagan provided a brief overview of the report. *Please see Exhibit F for further information.*

Senator Flowers requested a copy of the DCFS Area Map, as well as a breakdown of the raw number of cases by county and area, be forwarded to staff.

Senator Irvin asked if data can be pulled to determine how many individuals are receiving Medicaid during the pregnancy and how much is spent for neonatal intensive care after delivery.

Foster Care Services and Mental Health Services [Handout 2]

Senator Flowers recognized Ms. Nicole Linn, Community Outreach Specialist, Ozark Guidance Center (OGC), and Ms. Kristin Lehner, Director, Ozark Guidance Center. Ms. Linn shared the history of the Ozark Guidance Center and the services that are provided. She discussed the process of becoming a foster parent as well as meeting the qualifications and making a difference in a child's life.

Senator Flowers recognized Mr. Jared Sparks, Vice President, Clinical Services and Compliance, Ozark Guidance Center. Mr. Sparks discussed the policy changes mandated by state law effective July 1, 2018, and how those policy changes have affected the services that the center provides.

Ms. Dunagan added the changes implemented are Medicaid changes due to cutbacks. She will discuss those changes with the Director of Medicaid and the Division of Children and Family Services. Senator Flowers expressed her concerns about the cutbacks and suggested that another meeting be held to discuss those changes and to gather additional information on the number of cases that have been affected by the cutbacks. *Please see Handout 2 for further information.*

Senator Flowers also requested that Beacon Health Options attend the next meeting to explain the assessment of waivers and reconsiderations.

Other Business

The next meeting of the committee will be held at the Ronald McDonald House on November 15, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. A tour of the house will follow. The final meeting of the committee for 2018 is scheduled for December 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., in Room 130.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.