

EXHIBIT C

Minutes

ALC-Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Oversight Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
Meeting Jointly
August 19, 2019

The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare and Labor met jointly with the ALC-Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Oversight Subcommittee (AHIM), Monday, August 19, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., in Committee Room A, MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Public Health Senate Members Attending: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; David Wallace, Vice-Chair; Ronald Caldwell, Kim Hammer, Jimmy Hickey, Jr., and Bill Sample.

AHIM Senate Members Attending: Senators Larry Teague, Vice-Chair; Jason Rapert, and Cecile Bledsoe, ex officio.

Public Health House Members Attending: Representatives Jack Ladyman, Chair; Deborah Ferguson, Vice-Chair; Mary Bentley, Justin Boyd, Karilyn Brown, Bruce Coleman, Kenneth Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Lee Johnson, Fredrick Love, Stephen Magie, Austin McCollum, Josh Miller, Clint Penzo, Mark Perry, Chris Richey, and Jeff Wardlaw.

AHIM House Members Attending: Representatives Marcus Richmond, Laurie Rushing, and Brandt Smith.

Other Legislators Attending: Senators, Alan Clark, John Cooper, Jonathan Dismang, Trent Garner, and Gary Stubblefield. Representatives Fred Allen, Stan Berry, Joe Cloud, Steve Hollowell, Joe Jett, and Reginald Murdock.

Comments by the Chairs

Senator Missy Irvin called the meeting to order, and acknowledged the presence of the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Oversight Subcommittee chairs and members.

Consideration to Adopt the July 8, 2019, Meeting Minutes (EXHIBIT C)

Senator Irvin stated that without objection, the July 8, 2019, meeting minutes were adopted.

Latest Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollments for 2019 Year-to-Date by Geographic Breakdown, the Preliminary Report on Insurance Rates for 2020, and Associated Health Plans (EXHIBITS D-1, D-2, D-3) (Handouts 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Allen Kerr, Insurance Commissioner, Ryan James, Governmental Relations, and Chantel Allbritton, Manager, Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace, all with the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID); presented for AID. Commissioner Kerr, Mr. James, and Ms. Allbritton presented:

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.

User fees are now paid directly to CMS. The 1.25% AHIM user fee will be eliminated at end of 2019. With the elimination of the AHIM user fee AID projects that beginning in PY2020 (PlanYear), the annual cost of health insurance will be about \$3 million less

Update on Provider Enrollments and the Status of the Governor’s Executive Order 19-02 to Establish a Systematic Approach to Reviewing Medicaid Rates on a Regular Cycle (Handout #5)

Janet Mann, Director, Division of Medical Services, Kelley Linck, Governmental Liaison, and Dawn Stehle, Deputy Director/State Medicaid Director, all with the Department of Human Services (DHS); presented this update.

Ms. Mann gave a brief overview of provider enrollment in Arkansas Medicaid, and the next steps that DHS will take to improve the process for providers who enroll in Medicaid. Providers are required to re-validate every 5 years.

Five (5) rate reviews have been completed. Comments from interested parties are being compiled on the following:

- ❖ Ambulance
- ❖ Dental
- ❖ Physician-Primary Care
- ❖ Day Habilitation
- ❖ Personal Care Services

The following rate reviews are in progress:

- ❖ Hospice in a Nursing Home
- ❖ Lab and X-Ray, Nurse Practitioner
- ❖ Physician Assistant

Update on the Medicaid Trust Fund and Budget (Handout #5)

Dawn Stehle, Deputy Director/State Medicaid Director, and Janet Mann, Director, Division of Medical Services, both with DHS; presented this update.

Ms. Stehle gave a detailed presentation of the Medicaid revenue fund balances, which included the Medicaid Trust Fund. The actual carry-forward balances for SFY2020 is \$259,340,660. She also talked about the PASSE Premium Tax Trust Fund, which is a new trust fund.

The amount collected for the PASSE Premium Tax Trust Fund was \$13,539,907, of which, 50% has been earmarked to help reduce the Developmental Disability Services (DDS) waiting list. The other 50% will be used for I-Waivers, which are for future additional services that are not currently available to clients.

Report from the Disability Determination for Social Security Administration/Fraud Unit (Handout #6)

Arthur Boutiette, Director, Disability Determination for Social Security Administration, presented this report. Mr. Boutiette outlined the process the Social Security Administration uses to determine an individual’s degree of disability in relation to possible benefits.

Next year (2020), for the first time in nearly four decades, the government program that sends retirement checks to older Americans, will pay out more money than it receives; thus causing the program to dip into the “Rainy Day Fund”. This Rainy Day Fund is projected to only last 15 years. If Congress doesn’t find a way to fix the retirement fund, then social security checks for retirees may be reduced by 20% to 25%. This will have the greatest effect on Arkansas and West Virginia citizens.

Trauma System Update (EXHIBITS H-1, H-2)

Laura Shue, General Counsel, Stephanie Williams, RNP, MPH, Senior Deputy Director, James Bledsoe, M.D., FACS, Chief Physician Specialist, Trauma and EMS Medical Director, Greg Brown, Branch Chief, Trauma and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), all with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); presented this update.

Dr. Bledsoe and Mr. Brown gave a brief historical overview and an update on of the Arkansas Trauma System.

- ❖ Arkansas has the only statewide burn telemedicine program in the nation.
- ❖ 2019 is the 10 year anniversary of Arkansas's trauma system
- ❖ Percent of trauma patients transferred out of state has decreased from 12% to 1%
- ❖ The Trauma Image Repository forwards images to a facility, ahead of a patient who is being transferred
 - This speeds up care and eliminates duplicate testing
 - This is the only trauma system in the nation with this capability
- ❖ Arkansas has the only Ongoing Preventable Mortality Review in the nation
- ❖ AWIN Radios have been purchased for the Arkansas EMS Services
- ❖ There is a tracking system for Arkansas medical helicopters

Dr. Bledsoe stated that most traumatic injuries are from motor vehicle crashes.

Review of the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC) Annual Report for 2018 (*HANDOUT #7*)

Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) (Former Director, ATSC), presented a brief overview of the ATSC annual report for 2018.

Report of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council (Act 878 of 2019), Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS); Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) (*Handout #8*)

Maurice Rigsby, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Relations, UAMS, and Senator Kim Hammer; presented a brief overview of this report. An advisory council on PANS/PANDAS is currently being created according to the guidelines in Act 878 of 2019.

Mr. Rigsby introduced information about the PACE Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping children with PANS/PANDAS Disorder. The PACE Foundation supports education of, and clinical services for individuals with PANS/PANDAS. The foundation, based in Phoenix and Tuscon, Arizona, is headed by the Paul Ryan Family. The Ryan family also fund the clinical services at the University of Arizona, UCLA, Stanford University, and the University of Wisconsin Health.

In June, 2019, Dr. Rick Smith of UAMS and the UAMS faculty, began talks with the PACE Foundation about building the first PANS/PANDAS Clinic in the south in Arkansas. The foundation will help to fund a full-time nurse position—which will also serve as a coordinator position. Dr. Smith plans to invite the PACE Foundation and the Ryan family to Arkansas to view Arkansas's setup of a PANS/PANDAS Clinic at UAMS.

Mr. Rigsby will send the PACE Foundation website address to the committee members. Senator Hammer suggested inviting the Ryan family to a special Public Health Committee meeting when they visit UAMS.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.