

MINUTES

HOUSE & SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR

October 9, 2017

The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare and Labor met Monday, October 9, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center in Warren, Arkansas.

Public Health Senate Members Attending: Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; Eddie Cheatham, Vice Chair; and Lance Eads.

Public Health House Members Attending: Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Deborah Ferguson, Vice Chair; Justin Boyd, David Branscum, Bruce Coleman, Justin Gonzales, Jack Ladyman, Stephen Magie, and Aaron Pilkington.

Other Legislators Attending: Senators Linda Chesterfield, and Trent Garner. Representatives LeAnne Burch, Jon Eubanks, and Mark McElroy.

The Mayor of Warren, Arkansas, Bryan Martin welcomed everyone to the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center (SEAHDC), as he gave a brief overview of SEAHDC's background from inception to the present time.

Comments by the Chairs

Representative Jeff Wardlaw, House Chair, thanked Mark Wargo, and his staff of the SEAHDC for their hospitality, and the very accommodating room for the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee meeting today. He also thanked Jan Fortney and "*The Families & Friends of Care Facility Residents*" organization for providing lunch.

Organizational Changes within the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Establishment of a Provider Services Division and a Quality Assurance Division (EXHIBIT C)

Kelley Linck, Chief Governmental Liaison of Legislative Affairs, DHS, and Craig Cloud, Director, Provider Services and Quality Assurance Divisions, DHS; presented a brief overview of these changes.

Mr. Linck gave opening remarks and introduced Mr. Cloud as the director of this newly combined division. Mr. Cloud explained the new organizational changes that are being put in place by phases; and he also outlined the objectives of these changes.

Update on Activities and Accomplishments of the Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDS); and on the Programs and Activities of the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center (EXHIBIT D)

Melissa Stone, Director, Developmental Disabilities Services Division, DHS, and Mark Wargo, Interim Superintendent, Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center; presented the updates of and improvements to the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center in Warren, Arkansas.

Ms. M. Stone gave a brief overview of the transformational changes happening within the DDS Division. DDS has implemented a Tiered System. Tiers 2 and 3 Independent Assessments began in September, 2017. Tier 1 Independent Assessments will begin November 1, 2017. It is estimated that about 5,000 children will be in this assessment.

Mr. Wargo stated that October 15, 2017, the SEAHDC will celebrate 39 years of continued operation. The SEAHDC opened October 15, 1978. SEAHDC now has 248 employees and 96 residents. Mr. Wargo presented additional detailed statistical data of the facility and the residents. A new greenhouse was just recently donated by the local Elks Club and delivered to the SEAHDC.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Upon adjournment, Mr. Wargo conducted a tour of the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center Facility for committee members and everyone in attendance.