

Minutes
Senate Committee on Children and Youth and the House Committee on
Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs
Meeting Jointly
Monday, August 15, 2016

The Senate Committee on Children and Youth and the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met jointly on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the State Capitol Building, Room 171, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: **Senators** Stephanie Flowers, Chair; Bart Hester, Vice Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Alan Clark, Jonathan Dismang, Bobby J. Pierce and Linda Collins-Smith.

Representatives George B. McGill, Chair, Charlene Fite, Vice Chair; Vivian Flowers, Julie Mayberry, David Meeks, Rebecca Petty, Laurie Rushing, James Sturch, Dan Sullivan and Clarke Tucker.

Non-committee members present: **Senator** Jon Woods. **Representatives** John Baine, Scott Baltz, David L. Branscum, Gary Deffenbaugh, Charlotte Vining Douglas, R. Trevor Drown, Kenneth Ferguson, Jeremy Gillam, Bill Gossage, Michael John Gray, Fredrick J. Love, Reginald Murdock, Betty Overbey, Nelda Speaks and Dwight Tosh.

Representative McGill called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Minutes of June 14, 2016 and July 20, 2016 [Exhibits B1 – B2]

Representative Mayberry made a motion to approve June 14, 2016 and July 20, 2016 meeting minutes and without objection the minutes were approved.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) 3rd Quarter, SFY 2016 [Exhibit D]

Representative McGill recognized **Ms. Misha Martin, Director, DCFS**. She provided a brief summary of the Quarterly Performance Report. (*See Exhibit D for the full report*) She directed the committee to page 18 of the report which outlines the federal and state adoption subsidies information an item the committee had asked for more information on.

Senator Flowers requested that DCFS be prepared in future meetings to note current updated information presented in the QPR.

Overview of discussion:

- Request for more detailed information on children with multiple placements within the foster care system.
- Request for data to be provided on repeat offenders that results in children re-entering foster care.
- Request for reporting dependency/neglect cases by judicial district.
- Follow up and report to the committee on the research conducted by Hornsby-Zeller on randomly selected cases.
- Concerns related to human trafficking and youth aging out of foster care. The committee requested specific information regarding payments made directly to youth aging out of foster care.
- It was noted that while Act 964 of 1997, "The Family Treatment and Rehabilitation Program for Addicted Women and Their Children" was never funded there is a program within UAMS's

Psychiatric Research Institute that is conducting research and getting great outcomes. This program was started within the last year.

- Representative Mayberry asked that “Safe Families for Children” present at a future meeting of the committee.

DHS – Division of Youth Services (DYS), Quarterly Performance Reports (QPR) for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Quarters [Exhibits E1, E2, E3]

Representative McGill recognized **Ms. Betty Guhman, Interim Director, DHS-DYS**. She provided a brief report for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters. (*See Exhibits E1, E2, E3 for the full report*) She mentioned a few goals for DHS moving forward: partnership with providers, performance based contracts, better data collection & analysis and monitoring and quality assurance. There are three things that DHS needs to focus on pertaining to the youth: (1) providing services and/or options for judges for youth that do not need to be in secured detentions (2) providing treatment plans, good educational programs and vocational training and (3) aftercare. The next QPR will highlight a better context of how many kids are coming into DHS and what it reflects over the last few quarters.

Overview of discussion:

- The request for proposal (RFP) winning bid to Youth Challenges of Indiana was discussed. The RFP is currently in a 2 week protest period. The committee requested outcomes information for all residential providers before the protest period ends. Information regarding where cuts were made that allowed for the increased rate pay per day as reported was also requested.
- The four (4) counties with Disproportionate Minorities Contacts (DMC) as relates to juvenile justice in Arkansas were noted as Jefferson, Pulaski, Crittenden, and Sebastian Counties. DMC is data federally required every three years. The Relative Rate Index is measured by the population within the county and the racial breakdown of kids making contact in the juvenile justice system.
- Update on Citizen Advisory Boards (CRB); specific information requested on the status of a CRB in Jefferson County.
- Reporting commitments to DHS by county and offenses.
- The committee requested information regarding the number of juveniles that come into DHS with IEPs and what does the educational assessment encompass particularly, as relates to Dyslexia and reading problems.
- The committee requested information on county facilities operating under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DHS. Specifically, how many children committed to DHS are in these facilities and how much is being paid per child, per day and how much has been expended in the three quarters as reported.

Training for Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse, Neglect and Maltreatment

Representative McGill recognized **Ms. Sherry Williamson, Child Abuse Project Coordinator, Arkansas Commission of Child Abuse Rape and Domestic Violence**. Ms. Williamson shared information on mandated reporters and specific training that is required and offered. Online training is available at ar.mandatedreporter.org. The program is funded through a federal grant without any contributions from the state of Arkansas. Act 1236 of 2011 allows licensed educators to receive

training on what it means to be a mandated reporter, how to recognize physical and behavioral indicators and how to manage disclosure from children without causing further trauma. She noted that CACD and Child Advocacy Center also provide this training.

Overview of the DHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) [Exhibit G]

Representative McGill recognized **Mr. Craig Cloud, Director, DAAS**. A PowerPoint entitled, “**Overview for Aging & Adult Services**” was presented. (*See Exhibit G for the full report*) Senator Flowers asked if there has been a decrease in the level of care and/or services since the MOU in the waiver program. She asked if data can be provided to show this on a statewide level. Information was requested on the number of beneficiaries around the state by county and the amount expended to provide services.

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.