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Department of Shared Administrative Services
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Secretary Leslie Fiskens

May 4, 2026

The Honorable Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chairperson
The Honorable Lane Jean, Co-Chairperson
Joint Budget Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 315
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Dismang and Representative Jean:

Under Arkansas Procurement Law, all non-exempt contracts for "services" must be presented for legislative review if they have an annual contract amount that equals or exceeds fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in any contract year or a total projected contract amount of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) over the term of the contract. See Ark. Code Ann. § 19-61-116.

Although the Arkansas Legislative Council is not meeting in May, the Department of Human Services (DHS) is submitting the following three (3) contracts to the Joint Budget Committee for its review due to the imminent need for the services they provide.

- Contract Number 4600057879 – Samaritan Integrative Services LLC: To establish a contract to provide psychiatric services for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and co-occurring psychiatric conditions residing at the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center (SEAHDC). The previous contracted provider had to be terminated, and a replacement was procured to serve this Human Development Center (HDC).
- Contract Number 4600057958 – Sifter Solutions Inc.: To establish a contract creating a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Waiver Compliance Solution that sends Restricted Products lists to retailers. It will include a customer-facing application that reports a Universal Product Code-scanned item as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program excluded, then provides alternative products and companion nutrition education.
- Contract Number 4600058006 – Evident Change: To establish a three (3) year contract to provide Child Welfare Structured Decision Making (SDM) assessment support. This is to continue this service using evidence-based assessment tools approved by federal partner Administration of Children and Families (ACF). The previous contract reaches its procurement seven (7) year maximum. This was procured via Sole Source with Justification based upon the limited offerings of evidence-based approved by ACF and this is the evidence-based assessment approved by ACF for use in Arkansas.

None of these contracts presented appear to have been procured in violation of Arkansas Procurement Law.

If you have any questions, we will do our best to answer them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Patterson
Director – Office of State Procurement

