

MINUTES**THE ALC-HOSPITAL AND MEDICAID
STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE**

January 8, 2014

The ALC-Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee met Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room B of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

ALC-Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee Senate members attending were: Senators Jason Rapert, Chair; Ronald Caldwell, Vice Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Stephanie Flowers, and Missy Irvin.

ALC-Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee House members attending were: Representative Andy Davis, Chair.

Other legislators attending were: Senators Joyce Elliott, Bruce Maloch, and Gary Stubblefield. Representatives David Fielding, Kim Hammer, Sheilla Lampkin, Betty Overbey, Sue Scott, Jeff Wardlaw, and Richard Womack.

Call to Order

Senator Jason Rapert called the meeting to order, and briefly explained the purpose of this meeting. Representative Doug House was not able to attend today's meeting, but he requested Senator Rapert to distribute a letter to the subcommittee members that he wrote on behalf of a constituent in his district (*Handout #1*).

Consideration to Approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2013 Meeting (EXHIBIT B)

Without objection the minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting were approved.

Agency Assessments of Each Human Development Center

The superintendents of each human development center gave a brief overview of their respective facility.
(Note: Conway is the only facility that has residents under 18 years of age.)

Forrest Steele, Interim Superintendent, Arkadelphia Human Development Center (HDC) (EXHIBIT D-1)

Mr. Steele stated that the Arkadelphia HDC is a long-term care & intermediate care facility, that has been in continuous operation since 1968. As a result of partnering with the local community here in Arkadelphia, the Clark County Recycling Co-op was formed, which in turn created jobs for some of the facility's residents who are capable of working. This HDC has maintained its safety and code accreditation. As funding becomes available, the heating and air unit will be upgraded.

Jeff Gonyea, Superintendent, Booneville Human Development Center (EXHIBIT D-2)

As Mr. Gonyea stated that this residential HDC, with approximate 330 employees, is the largest employer in Logan County. The 126 residents who live here are developmentally disabled, all are 18 years of age or over, and everyone is ambulatory. Ninety-three percent of these residents also have a mental health diagnosis. The number one need of the human development centers are renovations to the facility structures. The approximate budget for 2014 of the Booneville HDC is \$16 million.

Calvin Price, Superintendent, Conway Human Development Center (EXHIBIT D-3)

In operation since 1959, residents of the Conway HDC range in age from 8 to 76; and it is the largest of the HDCs in Arkansas, serving 485 individuals. Retaining employees at the HDCs is difficult (especially licensed professionals), because working with the mentally challenged is difficult.

Deborah Edington, Superintendent, Jonesboro Human Development Center (EXHIBIT D-4)

The Jonesboro HDC services 108 individuals and has been in operation since 1974 as a residential, 24 hour/7 days a week facility. In addition, the Jonesboro center offers respite services. The budget for State Fiscal Year 2014 is \$12,602,867.

Judy Adams, Superintendent, Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center (EXHIBIT D-5)

The Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center has been in operation since 1978 and is located near Warren, Arkansas on 179 acres. This facility provides residential services to 104 adult individuals, and 85% of the residents are dually diagnosed. This center also provides respite and other support services.

John Selig, Director, Department of Human Services, and Charlie Green, Ph.D., Director, Developmental Disabilities Services, Department of Human Services (EXHIBIT D-6 & Handout #3)

Mr. Selig and Dr. Green both commented on the federal government's total funding incentive offer. This is an effort by the federal government to place developmentally disabled residents in community living arrangements, so they can gradually close the human development centers (HDC). Both Mr. Selig and Dr. Green stated they are trying to keep a workable balance between the HDCs and the residents living in the community, because they know there are people in the HDCs who are not able to live out in the community.

Along with the current 70% federal funding for the HDCs, there are new and stricter mandates to be met as a requirement for receiving this federal funding, which continually adds to the maintenance and operational expense of the HDCs.

Senator Bruce Maloch asked Dr. Green for a list of needed capital improvements for the Arkansas Human Development Centers. Dr. Green said the Department of Developmental Disability Services (DDDS) keeps an updated list of these needed improvements, and this list will be provided to Senator Maloch.

Concerns About the Future of Human Development Centers Expressed by Advocates (EXHIBIT E)

Jan Fortner, parent of a client residing in the Conway Human Development Center, Thomas Morris, parent of a client residing in the Booneville Human Development Center, and Darrell Pickney, President, Families & Friends of Care Facility Residents; testified in support of the Arkansas Human Development Centers (Handout #4).

Other Comments About Human Development Centers (Handout #6)

Tom Masseur, Executive Director, Disability Rights Center of Arkansas, gave a summary of the purpose and duties of the Disability Rights Center (DRC) of Arkansas. Mr. Masseur went on to further outline the DRC's obligations to the residents of the Human Development Centers (HDC), and the rights of each resident to a safe and comfortable place of residence. Mr. Masseur stated that the human development centers have no positive long-term value in the treatment of the disabled. The subcommittee also learned that the DRC, which is funded with federal tax dollars, aided the U.S. Department of Justice in a lawsuit against the State of Arkansas that claimed all of the state's centers violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The following individuals testified in support of the Human Development Centers of Arkansas:

- ◆ Terry Johnson, parent of client in the Jonesboro HDC
- ◆ Carole Sherman, parent of client in the Arkadelphia HDC (Handout #5)
- ◆ Janice Hanlin, parent of client in the Conway HDC
- ◆ Rita Hoover, parent of client in the Conway HDC
- ◆ Jerry Don Nixon, parent of client in the Southeast Arkansas HDC
- ◆ Paul Rainwater, parent of client in the Conway HDC
- ◆ Dr. Frank Sellman, parent of client in the Arkadelphia HDC
- ◆ Larry Taylor, brother of client in the Conway HDC

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.