

**MINUTES**  
**HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND**  
**LABOR COMMITTEE**  
**HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND**  
**LABOR COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Monday, November 14, 2022**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senator Kim Hammer, Chair; Representatives Aaron Pilkington, Chair; Fred Allen, and Jack Ladyman

Other members present: Senator Clark Tucker; Representatives Stan Berry, Frances Cavanaugh, Nicole Clowney, Marsh Davis, Denise Jones Ennett, Brian Evans, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Tippi McCullough, David Ray, Johnny Rye, and DeAnn Vaught

Representative Pilkington called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve the November 1, 2021, meeting minutes [Exhibit C]**

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Discussion of the Report of a Study on Mental and Behavioral Health required in Act 802 of 2021 [Exhibit D]**

Representative DeAnn Vaught, discussed the impact of mental health on citizens and how providers can better serve those with mental health problems.

Mark White, Secretary, Department of Human Services (DHS); Melissa Weatherton, Director, Division Developmental Disability Services, DHS; Paula Stone, Clinical Program Director, DHS; and Patricia Gann, Deputy Director, Division of Aging Adult and Behavioral Health Services, DHS; discussed Medicaid populations and mental health services available to adults and children.

Bess Gitny, Chief Executive Officer, Kids For the Future; Anna Strong, Executive Director, Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Shawna Burns, LPC, Counselor, Martin Therapy Center; Thomas Richie, LPC-S, Founder, Life Within Counseling Group; and Rusti Holwick, Chief Executive Officer, Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center; discussed how the Mental Health/Behavioral Health subgroups collaborated to improve outcomes in mental and behavioral health.

**Subgroups of Mental Health/Behavioral Health Working Group**

Representative Tippi McCullough, Suicide Prevention, Chair, discussed suicide prevention techniques developed through collaborations with various stakeholders around the state.

Representative Brian Evans, Workforce Development, Chair, discussed barriers that impede those with mental or behavior health issues from being diagnosed through state agencies.

Representative Frances Cavanaugh, Rates, Regulations, Efficiencies & Bed Availability, Chair, discussed the communication between providers and state agencies concerning mental and behavioral health needs.

Representative DeAnn Vaught, Substance Abuse/Co-Occurring Disorders and Prevention & Early Intervention, Chair, discussed the workforce shortage in the substance abuse/co-occurring disorder area, the under-reporting of opioid deaths by coroners, and implementing early childhood developmental screeners.

**Interim Study Proposal 2021-127 by Rep. Aaron Pilkington**

Dr. Shannon Haywood discussed how continuous glucose monitors have benefitted her family and how expanding coverage of glucose monitors would help increase access for patients. Cynthia Neuhofer, Pharmacy Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, discussed how DHS is regarding continuous glucose monitors as a medical benefit and how it could be moved to a pharmacy claim.

**Adoption of the Report to be Submitted to Arkansas Legislative Council**

Representative Pilkington stated, without objection, that Health Services Subcommittee recommends Representative Vaught report a summary of the subcommittee's discussion to the Arkansas Legislative Council by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.