

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
1:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice-Chair; Justin Boyd, Scott Flippo, Bryan King, Fredrick Love, and David Wallace; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Josh Miller, Vice-Chair; Fred Allen, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Zack Gramlich, Jack Ladyman, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Ryan Rose, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Jim Dotson, and Kim Hammer; Representatives Stan Berry, Hope Duke, Denise Jones Ennett, Vivian Flowers, Mike Holcomb, Steve Hollowell, Johnny Rye, and Joy Springer

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committee

Senator Boyd made a motion to authorize chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the committee, seconded by Senator Flippo, and the motion carried.

Consideration to Adopt the December 12, 2022, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit C]

Senator Flippo made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative K. Ferguson, and the motion carried.

Introduction of Arkansas Surgeon General

Kay Chandler, M.D., Arkansas Surgeon General, introduced herself to the committee and discussed her plans for preventative health and wellness along with the issue of maternal mortality in the state.

Update and Timeline of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Hospitals

Kristi Putnam, Secretary, Department of Human Services (DHS); Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary and State Medicaid Director, DHS; Andy Babbitt, Deputy Director, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration; and Jodiane Tritt, Executive Vice-President, Arkansas Hospital Association; gave an update and timeline of the ARPA funds for hospitals.

Discussion of Medicaid Redetermination Process [Handout 1]

Kristi Putnam, Secretary, DHS; Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary and State Medicaid Director, DHS; Mary Franklin, Director, Division of County Operations, DHS; and Amy Webb, Director, Medicaid Control Center, DHS; discussed the Medicaid redetermination process and the efforts to support beneficiaries long-term and short-term.

Review of Tobacco Settlement Commission Quarterly Report for July-September 2022 [Exhibit G] [Handout 2]

Matt Gilmore, Boards and Commissions Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); and Joy Gray, Branch Chief, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, ADH; gave a review of the Tobacco Settlement Commission Quarterly Report for July-September 2022 including education efforts and economic impact.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISPs) [Exhibits H1-H9]

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, all nine ISP's listed on the agenda will be adopted for study.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

DRAFT