

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, June 5, 2024
10:00 AM

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Research Institute Health and Wellness Center, Room 1215A
1000 Fianna Way, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Justin Boyd, and Clint Penzo; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Zack Gramlich, Kendra Moore, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senator Jim Dotson; Representatives Cindy Crawford, and Stan Berry

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Overview of Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE)

Dr. Kyle Parker, President and Chief Executive Officer, ACHE; Alexis Wiencek, Research Institute Technical Assistant, ACHE; and Shannon Jimenez, Dean, Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, ACHE; discussed the expansion of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education and reported on the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine program.

Discussion of Nursing Workforce in Northwest Arkansas Including Nursing Shortages

Jacqueline Truesdale, Chief Nursing Officer, Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas, and Patrick Pendleton, Executive Director, Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas, addressed nursing shortages in hospitals and discussed plans to alleviate the staffing issues.

Overview of Behavioral Health Issues Along With Future Goals and Strategies for Baptist Health- Fort Smith Region

Dawn Turner, Development and Special Event Officer, Behavioral Health, Baptist Health- Fort Smith, discussed behavioral health issues in Northwest Arkansas.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.