

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Thursday, September 11, 2025
10:00 AM
Southwest Arkansas Regional Medical Center, 2001 South Main Street
Hope, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; and Clint Penzo; Representatives Denise Jones Ennett, Dolly Henley, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, and Bart Schulz

Other members present: Representative Carol Dalby

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Presentation on Southwest Arkansas Regional Medical Center (SWARMC)

Shelby Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, SWARMC, discussed how the hospital administration is working to address and resolve current operational issues.

Overview of Pafford Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Suzy Barham, Director of Marketing, Pafford EMS, gave an overview of the history and emergency medical services provided by Pafford EMS.

Update on Mental Health Challenges in Relation to Law Enforcement

Ed Chattaway, Police Chief, Texarkana Arkansas Police Department; Captain Lester Colley, Texarkana Arkansas Police Department; and Wayne Easley, Sheriff, Miller County; Cathy Hardin Harrison, County Judge, Miller County; gave an update on jail overcrowding among people with mental illness who are waiting for a pre-trial evaluation.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.