

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
1:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Fredrick J. Love, and Clint Penzo; Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Jeremy Wooldridge, Vice-Chair; Fred Allen, Cameron Cooper, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Zack Gramlich, Dolly Henley, Jack Ladyman, Stephen Magie, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, Ryan A. Rose, and Bart Schulz

Other members present: Senator Justin Boyd; Representatives Brandon Achor, Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Rebecca Burkes, Jon S. Eubanks, Denise Garner, Steve Hollowell, Tippi McCullough, Jessie McGruder, David Ray, Marcus E. Richmond, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, Dwight Tosh, and Steven Walker

Representative Wardlaw called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the July 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Representative Gramlich made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Allen, and the motion carried.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services (DMS), Review of Rule, Continuous Glucose Monitors Billing Amendment [Exhibit C]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented the rule amending the coverage criteria of continuous glucose monitors in accordance with Medicare policy.

Representative Wardlaw stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, DMS, Review of Rule, Clarification of Requirements for an Acute Rehabilitation Unit Within a Hospital and Update to the Medicaid Utilization Management Program (MUMP) [Exhibit D]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented clarifying criteria for acute inpatient rehabilitation and regulation of care for rehabilitation services provided in an acute care hospital. It also clarifies the MUMP and its applicability to acute rehabilitation services.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS), Review of Rule, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Provider Manual Update [Exhibit F]

Jay Hill, Director, DAABHS, DHS, presented a streamlined PACE Medicaid Provider Manual that allows for more conducive provider reference and use.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, DAABHS, Review of Rule, PACE Rate Setting Methodology SPA+ [Exhibit G]

Jay Hill, Director, DAABHS, DHS, presented rule changes made in rate methodology for reimbursement rates for the PACE.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, DAABHS, Review of Rule, Updates to the Personal Care and Arkansas Independent Assessment Provider Manuals [Exhibit H]

Jay Hill, Director, DAABHS, DHS, presented rule changes that streamline the Personal Care Medicaid Provider Manual and Arkansas Independent Assessment Medicaid Provider Manual.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, Division of County Operations, Review of Rule, Medical Services Policy Updates Related to Resource Determinations [Exhibit I]

Mary Franklin, Director, Division of County Operations, DHS, presented updates to the Medical Services Policy Manual related to Independence Accounts, 529 Educational Accounts, and Title IV-E Adoption Subsidies.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

DHS, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Review of Rule, Hospital Based Residential Treatment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) [Exhibit J]

Paula Stone, Director, office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, DHS, presented the rule establishing hospital based residential rehabilitation services to treat SUD for those under age twenty-one.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Division for Health Protection, Pharmacy Services Section, Review of Rule, List of Controlled Substances [Exhibit K]

Chuck Thompson, Attorney, ADH; Shane David, Branch Chief, ADH; and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH; presented the rule amending the List of Controlled Substances based on substances identified in Act 934 of 2025.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division for Health Protection, Pharmacy Services Section, Review of Rule, Repeal of Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Synthetic Marijuana Products [Exhibit L]

Chuck Thompson, Attorney, ADH; Shane David, Branch Chief, ADH; and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH; stated the substances prohibited by these rules are listed under Schedule VI, making them redundant and proposed for repeal.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.