#### **MINUTES**

# HOUSE & SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR

May 7, 2018

The House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare and Labor met Monday, May 7, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, 7000 Chad Colley Boulevard, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Public Health Senate Members Attending: Senators Cecile Bledsoe, Chair; John Cooper, and Lance Eads.

**Public Health House Members Attending:** Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Justin Boyd, Bruce Coleman, Justin Gonzales, Robin Lundstrum, Stephen Magie, David Meeks, and Richard Womack.

Other Legislators Attending: Senator Trent Garner. Representatives Jon Eubanks, Charlene Fite, George McGill, and Mathew Pitsch.

#### **Comments by the Chairs**

Senator Cecile Bledsoe called the meeting to order and recognized Representative Mathew Pitsch for some opening remarks. Representative Pitsch presented a brief synopsis on how the Chaffee Crossing area is rapidly expanding to include new homes, growing businesses, and job growth. Adding to this presentation was Representatives Bruce Coleman, George McGill, Justin Boyd, Charlene Fite, Jon Eubanks, and Stephen Magie. Senator Bledsoe also recognized Representative-Elect Dr. Lee Johnson, and former Senator John Brown.

### **Consideration to Adopt the April 2, 2018 Minutes (EXHIBIT C)**

Without objection, the April 2, 2018 meeting minutes were adopted.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services, Review of the Rule to Allow a Beneficiary to Receive up to Four (4) Primary Care Visits Per State Fiscal Year, when Performed by either a Hospital-Based Walk-in or an Emergent Care Clinic without a PCP (Primary Care Physician) Referral, if the Beneficiary has not Been Assigned to a Primary Care Physician

Kelley Linck, Chief Governmental Liaison of Legislative Affairs, DHS, presented this proposed rule change. This proposed change will allow Medicaid recipients 4 (four) primary care visits annually, to a hospital-based walk-in clinic or to a hospital-based emergent care center without a referral from a primary care physician—provided they have not been assigned a primary care physician. If approved, it will become effective May 1, 2018.

After much discussion, the committees decided to hold this issue until the next Public Health Committee meeting.

## Presentation and Tour of Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, The Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Kyle D. Parker, JD, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Benny L. Gooden, Ed.D, Executive Director of Institutional Relations, both with the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, made a presentation.

Dr. Benny Gooden presented an informative video about the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the faculty, and the students.

Dr. Kyle Parker thanked everyone for coming and then recognized John Taylor and John Brown, both of whom are on the College Board of Directors; and Dr. Stowers, Dean and Provost of the College. Dr. Parker provided a history of how this college began, and said the programs offered now are Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physician Assistant. Currently there are plans for expansion, and these plans should be completed within the next 5 years.

The committee and committee staff were given a tour of this state-of-the-art facility.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.