

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY**  
**AFFAIRS**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Monday, November 14, 2022**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators David Wallace, Chair; Representatives Mary Bentley, Mark Berry, Keith Brooks, Craig Christiansen, Joe Cloud, Cindy Crawford, Marsh Davis, Tony Furman, Rick McClure, Mark McElroy, and Joy Springer

Other members present: Representatives Rick Beck, Harlan Breaux, Cameron Cooper, Jim Dotson, Vivian Flowers, Jack Ladyman, Fredrick Love, Johnny Rye, and Keith Slape

Senator Wallace called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes for the October 7, 2022, Meeting [EXHIBIT B]**

Representative Springer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Bentley, and the motion carried.

**Presentation on National Guard 101 Briefing [EXHIBIT C]**

Major General Kendall Penn, Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard (ARNG); Lt. Col. Will Phillips, Briefer-Public Affairs Officer, ARNG; and Lt. Col. Ryan Workman, Legislative Liaison, ARNG; presented an overview of ARNG's history and the state funding for payroll, operations, and maintenance.

**Discussion and Approval of the Report on Reducing the Number of Children in Foster Care [EXHIBIT D]**

Blake Gilliam, Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research, discussed the Reducing the Number of Children in Foster report.

Representative Mark Berry made a motion to authorize the chairs to approve the report, seconded by Representative McElroy, and the motion carried.

**Reports on Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Policy for Arkansans who use American Sign Language (ASL) and Department of Human Services (DHS) services for ASL Clients [EXHIBITS E1–E2]**

Ms. Christin Harper, Assistant Director, DCFS; and Ms. Sarah Linam, Chief Counsel, DHS, presented a report entitled "Interpreter Services for Hearing Impaired Clients" and reviewed the DHS report on ASL. They informed that Communication Plus contracts for ASL interpretation services and that The Social Service Block Grant funds the entire contract.

**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, (DCCEC) Review of Rule: Better Beginnings Quality Rating Improvement System [EXHIBIT F]**

Ms. Paige Cox, Chief Executive Leader, DCCEC, reported a proposed rule to update the name of the Better Beginnings manual and presented DCCEC's intentions to add three additional levels to the Better Beginnings Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement system.

Representative Mark Berry made a motion to review the rule, seconded by Representative McClure, and the motion carried.

**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services, Review of Rule: Foster Care Driving Program and Care Insurance Reimbursement Program [EXHIBIT G]**

Ms. Christin Harper, Assistant Director, DCFS, discussed the proposed rule which would allow for policy changes that align with existing state law relating to minors in DHS custody applying for their driving permit or license.

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

**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services, Review of Rule: To Rescind DCFS Policy XI: Educational Leave and Educational Assistance Policy [EXHIBIT H]**

Ms. Christin Harper, Assistant Director, DCFS, stated the proposed rule would eliminate Policy XI: Educational Leave and Educational Assistance Policy and its subsections.

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

**Update to the Alzheimer's State Plan [EXHIBIT I] [HANDOUT 1] [HANDOUT 2]**

Mr. David Cook, Senior Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, provided an update on the Alzheimer's State Plan along with information on the Alzheimer's and Dementia Advisory Council.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.