

MINUTES

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
Meeting Jointly**

Monday, August 26, 2024

10:00 AM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Bryan King, Chair; Alan Clark, Vice-Chair; Justin Boyd, Jane English, Ben Gilmore, Greg Leding, Clint Penzo, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair; Julie Mayberry, Vice-Chair; Keith Brooks, Joey Carr, Hope Duke, Tony Furman, Rick McClure, Stetson Painter, Shad Pearce, Aaron Pilkington, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Jim Dotson, Kim Hammer, and Fredrick Love; Representatives Rick Beck, Stan Berry, Cameron Cooper, Jack Fortner, Marcus E. Richmond, Johnny Rye, and Dwight Tosh

Representative Barker called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B5]

Senator Gilmore made a motion to batch meeting minutes, seconded by Representative Painter, and the motion carried.

Senator Gilmore made a motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded by Representative Woolridge, and the motion carried.

Review of Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Quarterly Oversight Report, January – March, 2024 [Exhibit C]

Major Jeff Drew, Commander, CACD, reviewed the quarterly report detailing the types of child abuse calls that were received as well as the numbers which were substantiated.

Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS [Exhibits D1-D4]

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, presented the following reports; Family Preservation Services SFY 2024; Biannual Overturned Investigations Report; and Quarterly Performance Report April 1 – June 30, 2024.

Discussion of Reunified Parent Perspective

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, and Leia Holland, shared testimony regarding reunification of Ms. Holland with her child.

Discussion of Permanency with Division of Children and Family Services and Project Zero

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, and Christie Erwin, Executive Director, Project Zero, presented their goal of having zero children in foster care.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.