

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Monday, January 24, 2022

10:00 AM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators David Wallace, Chair; Alan Clark and Breanne Davis; Representatives Charlene Fite, Chair; Mark Berry, Mary Bentley, Craig Christiansen, Cindy Crawford, Marsh Davis, Tony Furman, Denise Garner, Ashley Hudson, Julie Mayberry, Jon Milligan, Stu Smith, and Joy Springer

Other members present: Senators Kim Hammer and Larry Teague; Representatives Fred Allen, Stan Berry, Carol Dalby, Denise Jones Ennett, Jack Fortner, and Fredrick Love

Senator Wallace called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes for the November 15, 2021, Meeting [Exhibit C]

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

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) [Exhibits D1-D6]

Mischa Martin, Director, DHS, DCFS, discussed the Biannual Overturned Investigations Reports, The Garrett's Law Referral Data and Summary, the Family Preservation Services Report SFY 2021, and the Quarterly Performance Report for July 1 - September 30, 2021.

Presentation of Assisted Living Facility Costs

Mark White, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, Legal and Legislative Affairs, DHS, discussed the costs of assisted living facilities.

Update from Alzheimer's Association

David Cook, Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, discussed coordination with DHS regarding respite care grants and provided an overview of statistics of caregiver costs. Rodney Smith, a former caregiver, discussed his family's experience with his wife's diagnosis of dementia and her passing. Amanda Shaw, Grants Coordinator, Alzheimer's Arkansas, discussed the financial assistance the organization gives to families, including the methods of funding that assistance and the eligibility requirements.

Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) Quarterly Oversight Report

Major Jeff Drew, Commander, CACD, discussed the July – September 2021 Quarterly Oversight Report. He discussed the number of cases and the outcome of investigations, as well as data from the cases listed in the report.

Representative Mayberry invited members to attend the Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Advisory Council meeting Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 2 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

DRAFT