APPROVED 10-26-2026

MINUTES
HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR
Thursday, September 3, 2026
1:00 PM
Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center, 3111 South 70th Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Committee members present: Representatives, Bart Schulz, Chair; Jay Richardson, Vice-Chair; Mary Bentley, Cameron Cooper, Zach Gramlich, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Representatives, Lincoln Barnett, Cindy Crawford, Jon S. Eubanks, Jack Ladyman, Jessie McGruder, Aaron Pilkington, Chad Puryear, David Ray, and Ryan A. Rose

Representative Schulz called the meeting to order.

Presentation on Sebastian County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)[Exhibit B1-B2]
Rusti Holwick, CEO, Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center; Chief Danny Baker, Fort Smith Police Department; and Hobe Runion, Retired Sebastian County Sheriff; presented the reasons for the Sebastian County CSU's success.

Overview of Behavioral Health Providers
Sarah Gibbons, LPC, Private Practice Provider, and Jaymie Hopkins, Regional Outpatient Director, Pinnacle Point Behavioral Healthcare System, discussed mental health issues faced by children and families including different sources of payment.

Discussion of Community Mental Health Centers
Rusti Holwick, CEO, Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center, gave an overview of the area mental health infrastructure.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.