

**Minutes**  
**House Interim Committee on**  
**Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs**  
**Meeting**  
**Monday, December 17, 2018**

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The House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met on Monday, December 17, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at the State Capitol, Room 130, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Committee members present:** **Senator** Bart Hester. **Representatives** Charlene Fite, Chair; David Meeks, Vice-Chair; Bruce Coleman, Milton Nicks, Jr., and Danny Watson

**Non-Committee Members Present:** **Representatives** Lanny Fite, Ken Henderson, Fredrick J. Love, and Laurie Rushing.

**Members Elect:** **Representatives** Brian Evans and Don Glover.

Representative Fite called the meeting to order. She recognized former legislative member Mr. Jeff Williams, Department of Human Services (DHS), Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs. She also introduced members-elect Representative Brian Evans and Representative Don Glover.

**Approval of Minutes: October 10, 2018 and November 15, 2018** [Exhibit C]

**Representative Fite made a motion for approval of the minutes and without objection the motion was approved.**

**Update on Adult Protective Services Investigations Backlog** [Exhibits D-1 and D-2]

Representative Fite recognized Mr. Mark White, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services-Division of Aging and Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DHS-DAABHS).

Mr. White provided an update on the Quarterly Performance Report, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of SFY 2019, July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018. The report included quick facts which highlighted the performances for the quarter:

**July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018:**

- 3153 – Total Complaints
- 1901 – Total Screened Out
- 60.29% - Percent Screened Out
- 1252 – Investigations Opened
- 1128 – Investigations Closed
- 621 – Active Investigations

**Distribution of Allegations Investigated: July – September 2018:**

- 2% - Sexual Abuse
- 33% - Caregiver Neglect
- 16% - Exploitation (\*due to the explosion of the elderly population, financial exploitation of

the elderly is likely to increase)

- 5% - Mental/Psychological Abuse
- 10% - Physical Abuse
- 33% - Self Neglect

**Timely Completion of Adult Maltreatment Investigation:**

- The law requires that APS complete its investigation within 60 days of receipt of the report.
- APS completed 88.7% of its investigation on time during the first four months of the year.

\*The 1,156 investigations reported as cumulative backlog have been screened and have undergone secondary review by a DAABH licensed social worker, and others. The 1,156 investigations will remain on the dashboard until Deloitte applies the updates and closes the investigations.

**Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) Quarterly Report, April – June 2018** [Exhibit E]

Representative Fite recognized Major Jeff Drew, Commander, CACD. Major Drew provided a brief report on CACD Quarterly Report for April – June, 2018. *Please see Exhibit E for the full report.*

**Caseload Report for County Legal Operations: Child Welfare Cases 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report, SFY 2017-2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, SFY 2018-2019** [Exhibits F-1 and F-2]

Representative Fite recognized Jerald Sharum, Senior General Counsel, DHS-Office of Chief Counsel. Mr. Sharum provided a review of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, SFY 2018-2019. *Please see Exhibits F-1 and F-2 for the full report.*

Representative Meeks asked about the average number of caseloads per attorney. Mr. Sharum, stated that the American Bar Association (ABA) recommends 60 caseloads per attorney, however each attorney is averaging 101 caseloads. He noted, that anything over ABA recommendations becomes unmanageable.

**Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Annual Report Card, SFY 2018 and Quarterly Performance Report, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, SFY 2019** [Exhibits G-1 and G-2]

Representative Fite recognized Ms. Mischa Martin, Director, DCFS. Ms. Martin provided a detailed review of the Annual Report Card, SFY 2018 (Exhibit G-1). She later reviewed the Quarterly Performance Report, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, SFY 2019. *Please see Exhibits G-1 and G-2 for the full report.*

Representative Fite asked if Ms. Martin would provide a more thorough review of differential response for new members. Ms. Martin directed members to page 1 of the report. It outlines the definition of differential response.

**Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services (DYS), Transformation Plan**

[Exhibit H]

Representative Fite recognized Keesa Smith, Deputy Director, DHS. Ms. Smith introduced the revised Transformation Plan that the governor recently implemented for future changes in DYS. She also, introduced Michael Crump, Interim Director, DYS. She mentioned that the state will no longer run the residential facilities effective July 1, 2019. One of the most significant changes is that DYS is closing two facilities, which will leave five facilities open. One other change is there will be an all girl's facility opened in the near future. *Please see Exhibit H for the full report.*

Representative Glover stated his concerns for the employees that will be unemployed due to the closing of the two facilities, specifically the Dermott, Arkansas location. Ms. Smith stated that DYS is working to retain as many staff as they can and that some of the affected employees will most likely move to adult facilities that house adults ages 18-21.

**Veterans Village of America** [Exhibits I-1 and I-2]

Representative Fite recognized Representative LeAnne Burch and Colonel Mike Ross, Chairman and President of Veterans Villages of America. Mr. Ross shared the VA's mission for their veterans as well as a short video presentation. *Please see Exhibit I-1 and I-2 for the full report.*

**Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services, Review of Rules, Child Maltreatment Investigation Actions and Programs** [Exhibit J]

Representative Fite recognized Ms. Christin Harper, Assistant Director, DCFS. Ms. Harper reviewed the rule changes. Representative Fite made a motion to recommend approval and without objections the rules were recommended for approval. *Please see Exhibit J for review of the rules.*

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.