

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

**Meeting Jointly**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 130, State Capitol,**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth, and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs; met Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 130 at the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Committee members present were:** *Senators* Stephanie Flowers, Chair; Bart Hester, Vice Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Jonathan Dismang, Jane English, Jeremy Hutchinson, and Robert Thompson. *Representatives* David Meeks, Chair; Warwick Sabin, Vice Chair; Randy Alexander, Charles Armstrong, John Baine, Ken Bragg, Gary Deffenbaugh, Charlene Fite, Bill Gossage, Justin Harris, Mike Holcomb, and Sue Scott.

**Non-Committee members present were:** *Senators* Bryan King, Michael Lamoureux, and Jon Woods. *Representatives* Nate Bell, Harold Copenhaver, Jim Dotson, Charlotte Vining Douglas, Jeremy Gillam, Fredrick Love, Betty Overbey, Chris Richey, Mary Lou Slinkard, and Nate Steel.

Senator Stephanie Flowers called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve Minutes of November 15, 2012** [EXHIBIT B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Quarterly Performance Report, October, 2012-December, 2012** [EXHIBIT G]

Cecile Blucker, Director, DCFS, Department of Human Services, presented the quarterly report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of SFY2013 (October 2012 – December 2012). The report is divided into three sections (Performance Indicators, Compliance Index, and Description of Population & Services), plus an appendices with complete statistical data for the quarter.

Senator Flowers asked Ms. Blucker to provide the ages of all the parents who have children in need of intervention services by DCFS, and she agreed to provide this information if it is available.

Representative David Meeks wanted to know the percentage of children who are receiving the required face-to-face home visits within the stipulated timeline window. Ms. Blucker stated that DCFS reviews the “120-Day Report” to ensure that children in this system have had at least one visit by a DCFS worker within the last 120 days.

Senator Flowers would like a break-out of the board payments by amount and payment date to be included in the quarterly reports. Senator Flowers would also like a copy of the Foster Parent Handbook. Ms. Blucker said that she would provide all requested information to the committee.

**Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services, Review of Rules and Revisions to CPR and First Aid Requirements for Foster and Adoptive Parents** [EXHIBIT J]

Cecile Blucker, Director, DCFS, Department of Human Services, stated this revision is necessary for the inclusion of the Health & Safety Institute and EMS Safety Services Inc., as accepted first aid and CPR providers for DCFS foster and adoptive parents.

Senator Flowers stated that without objection this revision will stand as reviewed.

**Adoption of Interim Study Proposal 2013-035; An Act to Repeal the Requirements for Permits of Approval for Assisted Living Facilities; and for Other Purposes. Sponsor, Representative Debra Hobbs [EXHIBIT C]**

Senator Flowers stated that without objection, ISP2013-035 is adopted for study.

**Adoption of Interim Study Proposal 2013-023; An Act to Regulate Community Organizations That Provide Youth Services or Other Services; and for Other Purposes by Representative Kim Hammer [EXHIBIT D]**

Senator Flowers stated that without objection, ISP2013-023 is adopted for study.

**Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS), Child and Adolescent Service System Program Report Card (CASSP), January 2013-March 2013 [EXHIBIT E]**

Paula Stone, Assistant Clinical Director, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Department of Human Services, presented a brief overview of the CASSP Program that was established in 1991 by Act 964. Based on a concept developed by the National Institute of Mental Health, CASSP emphasizes the need for inter-agency collaboration for children with behavioral/mental health issues. This statewide inter-agency collaboration provides multiple services to these children, to provide better and more efficient treatment for them.

Senator Flowers stated that without objection this report will stand as reviewed.

**Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Annual Report 2012 and Oversight Report, January, 2013-March, 2013 [EXHIBITS F1, F2]**

Captain Ron Stayton, Commander, Crimes Against Children Division, Arkansas State Police, and Gary Glisson, Director, Arkansas State Police, Child Abuse Hotline, briefly presented the 2012 Annual Report and the Oversight Report for January, 2013-March, 2013.

Sixteen pages were missing from the 2012 Annual Report. Senator Flowers said Captain Stayton could continue with the report, but he would need to forward the rest of the report to Varnaria Vickers-Smith as soon as possible. If members have questions after reading the forth coming information, please email them to Ms. Vickers-Smith, and she will forward them to Captain Stayton for his response and, if necessary, these questions can be addressed at the next meeting. Captain Stayton continued with the presentation of the Annual Report.

Senator Flowers requested data of the age of the parents who were in charge of children that crimes were perpetrated against. She would also like to know the final disposition of the cases that are referred for prosecution. Captain Stayton said he would get that information to her.

Representative Bell asked if all of the information that has been requested during this meeting could be sent to all non-committee members who are in attendance today, as well as the committee members. Senator Flowers approved this request.

Captain Stayton began presentation of the quarterly report, and soon discovered that this report was also lacking all of the information that was supposed to be included. Senator Flowers stated that the committees would like Captain Stayton and Mr. Glisson to come back to present these reports in full at the next meeting.

**Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services (DYS), Quarterly Performance Report, January, 2013-March, 2013 [EXHIBIT H]**

Steve Jones, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services, and Dr. Lisa Hutchinson, Assistant Director, Community Services, DYS, presented the quarterly performance report. Mr. Jones gave a brief overview of the quarterly performance report for January, 2013-March, 2013.

Since time was running short, Senator Flowers asked Mr. Jones and Dr. Hutchinson to save the other half of their presentation until the next committee meeting. Senator Linda Chesterfield requested that Mr. Jones also bring information as to the number of youth currently in detention centers and what services are provided to them. Mr. Jones and Dr. Hutchinson said they would come back, and bring all requested information.

**The Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime (CALL)**

Lauri Currier, Executive Director, The CALL, presented information about the organization, *Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime (CALL)*. The CALL is a faith-based organization that has been in operation since 2007. The CALL works in partnership with the Division of Children & Family Services (DCFS) to help with and encourage foster parenting and adoption. All funding is private, corporate, and philanthropic—there is no government funding.

In 2011 the CALL went from a localized community organization to a statewide organization. The CALL has made the following progress since 2011:

- ◆ 199 informational meetings held statewide
- ◆ 1449 families attended these informational meetings
- ◆ 726 of these families have met the introductory requirements & have started the foster care/adoption process
- ◆ 114 training sessions have been held for foster parents
- ◆ 295 foster families have opened
- ◆ 105 adoptive families have opened
- ◆ 235 families will soon be certified
- ◆ Since 2007 the total number of families that have become certified is 675

Representative David Meeks voiced his support of the CALL organization, and echoed the progress this organization is making.

Senator Flowers announced the next meeting will be on July 18, 2013 in Room 130 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.