

**Minutes**  
**Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth**  
**House Interim Committee on**  
**Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

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The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs met jointly on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the State Capitol, Room 171, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Committee members present:** **Senators** Stephanie Flowers, Chair; David Wallace, Vice Chair; and Missy Irvin; **Representatives** Charlene Fite, Co-Chair; David Meeks, Vice Chair; Sonia Eubanks Barker, LeAnne Burch, Frances Cavanaugh, Bruce Coleman, Mickey Gates, Steve Hollowell, Clint Penzo, Clarke Tucker and Danny Watson

**Non-committee members present:** **Senators** Trent Garner and Bryan King; **Representatives** Fred Allen, Trevor Drown, David Fielding, Kim Hammer and Fredrick Love

Senator Flowers called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve Minutes of December 14, 2016** [Exhibit C]

**Without objection, the minutes of the December 14, 2016, meeting were approved.**

**Consideration to adopt a motion allowing the chairs to approve special expenses** [Exhibit D]

**Representative Gates made a motion to grant authority for the approval of special expenses to the committee chairs. Senator Wallace seconded the motion and, without objection, the motion was adopted.**

**Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma (ARBEST)** [Exhibit K]

Senator Flowers recognized Ms. Teresa Kramer, Professional and Chief Psychologist, Psychiatric Research Institute, University of Arkansas Medical Service to present the ARBEST report and the Quarterly Legislative Report January-March, 2017 (Handout #1). ARBEST was established in 2009 when the Arkansas State Legislature approved funding to improve screening, monitoring, and continuity of care for children experiencing physical or sexual abuse. ARBEST provides training for all mental health professionals throughout the state that enables them to provide state of the art treatment to children. A quarterly report is submitted to the state legislature every three months summarizing the previous quarter's goals and accomplishments.

**Quarterly Performance Reports** [Exhibits I1, I2, I3]

Senator Flowers recognized Ms. Mischa Martin, Director, Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). She provided an overview of the most recent quarterly report; (January–March 31, 2017), Exhibit I3. Some of the things discussed that are not included in the report is over the next year; DCFS is developing a plan that will focus on certain type cases that will affect rules, servicing children and timeliness of reports; which law requires that overdue reports are closed out in 45 days. One concern mentioned is there are currently 579 children in the foster care system who have been there for 36 months or longer with the possibility of aging out

of the system. DCFS is working with federal partners to implement a concurrent plan to reduce the number of years that children are in foster care as well as address the issues of placement within the foster care system. It was suggested that a breakdown of in-home cases by county be included in future reports as an appendix. DCFS will also incorporate complex data concerning Differential Response. DCFS will follow-up on Appendix F: Foster Home Closure Reasons “Provider/Services No Longer Needed”, to provide an explanation of this heading.

**Review of Rules** [Exhibits H1, H2, H3]

Senator Flowers recognized Ms. Harper, Assistant Director, DHS, DCFS. She presented the rules for Family Assessments Using the FAST and the CANS, Child Involved in a Protective Services Case who is Missing, and Internal Review of Assessment Decisions.

**Representative Meeks made a motion to consider all rules reviewed and without any objection the rules were recommended for review.**

**Arkansas State Police, Child Abuse Hotline Annual Report 2016 and Arkansas State Police Oversight Report, Debbie Roark, Crimes Against Children Division, Administrator** [Exhibits E, F, G1, G2]

Senator Flowers recognized Ms. Roark to discuss the second and third quarter reports for fiscal year 2017 and the 2016 Annual Report. Senator Flowers asked that Ms. Roark provide more information on federal funding, grants and programs that are targeting prevention efforts for child abuse and neglect.

**Caseload Report for County Legal Operations (CLO): Child Welfare Cases** [Exhibits J1, J2]

Senator Flowers recognized Mr. Jerald Sharum, Deputy Counsel, DHS and Office of Chief Counsel to present this report. The beginning of the report provides an overview of the report and CLO involvement in adult protective cases as well as child placement cases across the state. The report also provides a breakdown of the number of child welfare cases by county, as reported October-December, 2016.

**Other Business**

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.