

MINUTES
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AUTISM
Thursday, August 13, 2026
9:00 AM
Room B, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Justin Boyd, Co-Chair; Representatives Denise Jones Ennett, Co-Chair

Non-legislative members present: Dr. Jeff Adams, Jennifer Brezee, Karan Burnette, Rachel Dodson, Dr. Shelia Smith, Dr. Michael Taylor, and Melissa Weatherton

Other members present: Representatives Nick Burkes, and Nicole Clowney

Representative Ennett called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the June 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Senator Boyd made a motion to adopt the minutes, seconded by Karan Burnette, and the motion carried.

Update from Office of Arkansas Attorney General Regarding Medicaid Fraud Investigations

Justin Brascher, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Arkansas Attorney General provided updates from the Office of Arkansas Attorney General regarding Medicaid fraud investigations including information on the fraud investigation process.

Discussion on Applied Behavior Analysis Behavior Plans [Exhibit D]

Rachel Dodson, Member, Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism, Jessica Lenehan, Clinical Director, Every Little Step ABA, LLC, presented information on receiving Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services and the insurance processes in receiving ABA services.

Courtney Slack, Associate Vice President of Clinical Strategy and Care Integration, Empower Healthcare Solutions, LLC provided information regarding the insurance notification processes and insurance approval processes for ABA services.

Discussion of Legislative Priorities to be Submitted to the General Assembly

Representative Ennett led a discussion regarding the legislative priorities report to be submitted to the General Assembly and discussed scheduling an additional meeting prior to the August 31, 2026, submission deadline. Representative Ennett made a motion that the final approval of the report go through the chairs prior to the final submission to the General Assembly, seconded by Rachel Dodson, and the motion carried.

Representative Ennett made a motion to expunge the prior motion, seconded by Melissa Weatherton, the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.