

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator Missy Irvin
Co-Chair

Representative Lee Johnson
Co-Chair

JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, & LABOR COMMITTEES

November 25, 2024

The Honorable Terry Rice, Co-Chair
The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
Room 350, State Capitol Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:

Pursuant to Act 512 of 2023, the following report of the Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental and Behavioral Health by the Senate and House Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor is being submitted to the Arkansas Legislative Council.

The Joint Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor met over a period of months to discuss topics including, but not limited to, existing mental and behavioral health facilities such as the Arkansas State Hospital, the status and future of crisis stabilization units, and efforts to improve the future of mental and behavioral healthcare by educating future healthcare professionals at educational institutes throughout the state.

The Committees recommend that the Arkansas General Assembly continue to work towards bettering access and availability of mental and behavioral healthcare within the state in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Missy Irvin

Senator Missy Irvin
Senate Chair

Lee Johnson

Representative Lee Johnson
House Chair

cc: Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research