

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR

Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, September 10, 2024
10:00 AM

Uni. of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry, Delta Dental of Tennessee Auditorium
Room 401, 875 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; and Fredrick J. Love; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Fred Allen, Deborah Ferguson, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Jack Ladyman, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Bart Schulz, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield and Reginald Murdock; Representatives Joey Carr, Denise Jones Ennett, Vivian Flowers, Stephen Meeks, Milton Nicks Jr., Jamie Scott, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, and Dwight Tosh

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Discussion of Dental Health Throughout Arkansas [Exhibit B]

Dr. Ken Tilashalski, Dean, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center: College of Dentistry, discussed the impact Arkansas residents have on the dentistry program at the University of Tennessee and potential funding for students. Brad Clothier, Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer, Delta Dental of Arkansas, and Sharon Lanier, Executive Director, Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation, discussed different grants Delta Dental offers communities in Arkansas to address oral health.

Presentation on Arkansas Mission of Mercy

Dr. Terry Fiddler, Executive Director, Arkansas Mission of Mercy, and Dr. Kristi Golden, Clinical Director and Board Member, Arkansas Mission of Mercy, discussed how Mission of Mercy provides free dental care to underserved Arkansans.

Tour of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital at 11:30 AM

A tour of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital facilities was provided with a focus on The Seacrest Studio, the Heart Institute, and Neuroscience Institute.

RECESS

Meeting Continues at Wonder Junior High School at 2:30 PM

**The Opioid Epidemic's Toll on Black Communities and Paths to Recovery [Exhibits G1-G3]
[Handout G]**

Representative Tara Shephard, District 79, discussed how the opioid epidemic affects the black community and steps that can be taken to alleviate the effects. Carl Daughtery, Chief of Field Services, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS), and Kimberley Clayborn, Deputy of Field Operations, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, ADWS, discussed how Arkansas Rehabilitation Services provides training and career development to help those with disabilities gain employment.

Discussion of Efforts to Improve Health in Arkansas by New York Institute of Technology- College of Osteopathic at Arkansas State University [Exhibits H1-H3]

Dr. Brookshield Laurent, Associate Dean of Population and Academic Health, Arkansas State University, New York Institute of Technology, presented information about the shortage of healthcare providers in rural areas and how the New York Institute of Technology- College of Osteopathic at Arkansas State University is addressing these shortages.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

DRAFT