

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Monday, September 30, 2024
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Justin Boyd, Bryan King, Fredrick J. Love, Clint Penzo, and David Wallace; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Josh Miller, Vice Chair; Mary Bentley, Justin Gonzales, Jack Ladyman, Kendra Moore, Aaron Pilkington, Ryan A. Rose, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Representatives Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Stan Berry, Cameron Cooper, Grant Hodges, Tippi McCullough, Jay Richardson, Joy Springer, Dwight Tosh, and Carlton Wing

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the August 14, 2024, September 10, 2024, and September 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B3]

Representative Bentley made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Ladyman, and the motion carried.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) [Exhibits C1-C5]

Lud Kozlowski, Vice Chair, Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities; Jonathan Taylor, Executive Director, Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities; Logan Collins, Arkansas Autism Foundation; and Representative Pilkington; spoke in favor of ISP 2023-117 regarding the Blue Envelope Program as it relates to individuals with disabilities.

Senator Irvin stated that without objection, ISP 2023-113, ISP 2023-115, ISP 2023-116, ISP 2023-117, and ISP 2023-119 are adopted for study.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Hospital Cost Settlement Reopening Process [Exhibit D]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary, DHS, discussed rules pertaining to the clarification of expending state and federal funding in the Medicaid program.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

DHS, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Life360 State Plan Amendment: Targeted Case Management [Exhibit E]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary, DHS, discussed rules amending the Medicaid State Plan to provide women with high-risk pregnancies who are eligible for Medicaid to receive home visits under the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for ME program.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

DHS, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Private Hospital Access Payment State Plan Amendment [Exhibit F]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary, DHS, discussed rules proposing changes to the Medicaid State Plan to increase access payments to hospitals.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

DHS, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Transition of Dental Services [Exhibit G]

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary, DHS, discussed rules to amend the Children's Health Insurance Program state plan regarding dental managed care.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

DHS, Division of County Operations, Review of Rule, Workers with Disabilities Eligibility Choices [Exhibit H]

Mary Franklin, Director, Division of County Operations, DHS, and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary, DHS, discussed rules clarifying services in the Medical Services Policy Manual for Workers with Disabilities.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

DHS, Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance, Review of Rule, Updates to Rules for Nursing Homes [Exhibit I]

Sarah Schmitt, Deputy Director, DHS, and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary, DHS, discussed rules amending the Nursing Home Manual to update terminology, ensure consistent formatting, and reflect current organization structures and internal operations.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Office of Preparedness and Emergency Response Systems, Review of Rule, Rules for Emergency Medical Services [Exhibit J]

Christy Kresse, Section Chief, Emergency Medical Services, ADH; Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH; discussed rules related to enhancing care to those who need care from Emergency Medical Services Personnel.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

ADH, Division of Public Health Practice, Lead-Based Paint Activities Program, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to Lead-Based Paint Activities [Exhibit K]

Ashley Mason, Epidemiologist, Lead-Based Paint Activities Program, ADH; Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH; discussed rules regulating licensing and training programs for lead-based paint activities.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN), Review of Rule, Chapter Four: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse [Exhibit L] [Handouts 1-2]

Sue Tedford, Director, ASBN, ADH, and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy/Boards and Commissions Coordinator, ADH, discussed updating rules pertaining to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Five: Delegation
[Exhibit M] [Handouts 1-2]**

Sue Tedford, Director, ASBN, ADH, and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy/Boards and Commissions Coordinator, ADH, discussed updating rules pertaining to the delegation of tasks to Medical Assistants.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

DRAFT