

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dave Wallace, Vice Chair; Ricky Hill, Fredrick J. Love, John Payton, and Clint Penzo; Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Jeremy Wooldridge, Vice Chair; Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Mary Bentley, Cameron Cooper, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Dolly Henley, Lee Johnson, Jack Ladyman, Wayne Long, Stephen Magie, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Ryan A. Rose, and Bart Schulz

Other members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Alan Clark, Jim Dotson, and Mark Johnson; Representatives Lincoln Barnett, Stan Berry, Keith Brooks, Jon S. Eubanks, Brian Evans, Steve Hollowell, Tippi McCullough, Mindy McAlindon, and Joy Springer

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

**Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committees**  
Representative Ladyman made a motion to authorize chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the committee, seconded by Senator Payton, and the motion carried.

**Consideration to Approve the December 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit C]**  
Senator Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Ladyman, and the motion carried.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, Rule No. 2, Rule Establishing Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Arkansas, would be heard at a later date.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, the rule pertaining to Urgent Care Clinics would be heard by the Human Services Subcommittee for further discussion before review by Public Health.

**Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Medicaid Administrative Reconsiderations and Appeals [Exhibit E]**

Nell Smith, Deputy Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Brad Hayes, Chief Deputy Council, DHS, presented rules that extend the time Medicaid beneficiaries have to file an appeal and allow for the continuation of services after an appeal.

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

**DHS, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Hospice Provider Manual Updates [Exhibit F]**  
Nell Smith, Deputy Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Brad Hayes, Chief Deputy Council, DHS, presented rules regarding a provider manual change that introduces the use of a new form that helps identify Medicaid Beneficiaries being admitted or discharged from hospice services.

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

**DHS, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Core Set Reporting Requirements [Exhibit G]**

Nell Smith, Deputy Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Brad Hayes, Chief Deputy Council, DHS, presented rules regarding a state plan for mandatory reporting requirements on the Medicaid Core Set required by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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

**DHS, Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Specialized Formula and Associated Supplies Rate Change [Exhibit H]**

Nell Smith, Deputy Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, and Brad Hayes, Chief Deputy Council, DHS, presented rules regarding reimbursement rate changes for specialized formulas and associated supplies.

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

**DHS, Division of Aging, Adult & Behavioral Services, Review of Rule, Policy and Procedure for Name Removal from Arkansas Adult Maltreatment Registry [Exhibit J]**

Jay Hill, Director, Division of Aging, Adult & Behavioral Health Services, DHS, presented rules allowing at least one member from the Office of Long-Term Care or the Attorney General's Office to be on the review panel when reviewing a name removal request submitted by a person whose name was placed on the Adult Maltreatment Registry by one of those offices.

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

**Other Business**

Representative Bentley gave a report on women's health initiatives that took place in May.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.