

# APPROVED 7-1-2026

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Jointly

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

1:00 PM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Ricky Hill, and Clint Penzo; Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Jeremy Wooldridge, Vice-Chair; Glenn Barnes, Mary Bentley, Cameron Cooper, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Zack Gramlich, Jack Ladyman, Wayne Long, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, and Bart Schulz

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Jon S. Eubanks, Denise Garner, Justin Gonzales, Steve Hollowell, Julie Mayberry, Tippi McCullough, Mark D. McElroy, Brit McKenzie, David Ray, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, and Dwight Tosh

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

#### **Consideration to Approve May 19, and May 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B1-B2]**

Representative Wooldridge made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Pilkington, and the motion carried.

#### **Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of County Operations (DCO), Review of Rule, Updates to Presumptive Eligibility [Exhibit C]**

Mary Franklin, Director, DCO, DHS, presented an update to the presumptive eligibility rules for pregnant women as a Medicaid Service category.

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

#### **DHS, DCO, Review of Rule, Fictive Kin Addition and Act 875 ABLE Account Age [Exhibit D]**

Mary Franklin, Director, DCO, DHS, presented updates aligning DCO rules with Division of Children and Family Services rule regarding the placement of foster children with Fictive Kin.

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

#### **DHS, Division of Medical Services (DMS), Review of Rule, Continuous Glucose Monitors Billing Amendment [Exhibit F]**

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented the rule allowing Medicaid beneficiaries to obtain Continuous Glucose Monitors through a pharmacy or Durable Medical Equipment provider.

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

Representative Wardlaw objected, and the rule was held in committee.

**DHS, DMS, Review of Rule, RSV Administration fee for Children [Exhibit G]**

Elizabeth Pitman, Director DMS, DHS, presented the rule increasing the Vaccine for Children administration fee rate.

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

**DHS, DMS, Review of Rule, Telemedicine Exemption for Triage, Treat, and Transport Services [Exhibit H]**

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented the rule providing an exemption for ambulance providers to triage, treat, and transport patients to an alternative destination without consulting a physician through telemedicine.

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

**DHS, DMS, Review of Rule, Dental Rates Increase [Exhibit I]**

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented the rule to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for oral and maxillofacial surgeons' dental services and anesthesia, pediatric dental services and anesthesia, and dental services for adults with special needs.

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

**DHS, DMS, Review of Rule, Arkansas Medicaid Reimbursement for Physical and Occupational Therapy in Clinic-Based Settings [Exhibit J]**

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented the rule which expands coverage for rehabilitative occupational and physical therapy in clinic-based settings.

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

**DHS, DMS, Review of Rule, Maternal Health Providers and Remote Monitoring [Exhibit K]**

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented the rule requiring Medicaid to provide coverage and reimbursement for purchase of self-measurement blood pressure monitoring services for pregnant women and postpartum women, and establish coverage for two new provider types, doulas and lactation consultants.

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

**DHS, DMS, Review of Rule, Adverse Decisions [Exhibit L]**

Elizabeth Pitman, Director, DMS, DHS, presented the rule extending the Medicaid provider appeal period, and instituting new requirements regarding adverse decisions

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

**DHS, Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance, Review of Rule, Rules for the Arkansas Long-Term Care Facility Nursing Assistant Training Program & REPEAL Rules for Conducting Criminal Records Checks for Employees of Long-Term Care Facilities [Exhibit M]**

Linda White, Division Administrator, Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance, DHS, presented the rule amending the time period from five years to ten years in which a registered nurse

must possess one year of long-term care nursing experience in a nursing facility to qualify as a primary instructor for the Nursing Assistant Training Program, and updating required training hours to reflect clock hours of training.

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

**DHS, Review of Rule, Marketing Activities by Managed Care Network Providers & REPEALS: APM 905 – Social Services Block Grant Program Manual; PUB-408 – Notice of Privacy Practices [Exhibit N]**

Paula Stone, Director, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, DHS, presented the rule that amends and seeks to ensure that potential and actual enrollees in a risk-based provider organization have the right to know whether a direct service provider is or will be in-network and the consequences of choosing a risk based provider organization in which that direct service provider is not participating as a network direct service provider.

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

**Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Division for Health Advancement, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to Doula Certification [Exhibit O]**

Cristy Sellers, Director, Division for Health Advancement, ADH, and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented the rule to establish minimum standards for certification of Community-Based Doulas in Arkansas.

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

**ADH, Division for Health Advancement, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to Community Health Workers [Exhibit P]**

Cristy Seller, Director, Division for Health Advancement, ADH, and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented the rule to enact the certification of community health workers in Arkansas.

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

**ADH, Division for Health Protection, Cosmetology, Body Art, and Massage Therapy Section, Review of Rule, Rules for Cosmetology and Body Art in Arkansas [Exhibit Q]**

Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented the rule to comply with the required posting of National Human Trafficking Resource Hotline, and minor changes to clarify wax pot safety and addition of body art modalities after initial licensure.

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

**ADH, Division for Health Protection, Cosmetology, Body Art, and Massage Therapy Section, Review of Rule, Rules for Massage Therapy in Arkansas [Exhibit R]**

Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented the rule regulating the practices of massage therapy and establishing requirements for licenses and schools for each licensure type.

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

**ADH, Lead-Based Paint Program, Environmental Epidemiology Section, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to Lead-Based Paint Activities [Exhibit S]**

Rebecca Davis, Epidemiology Supervisor, ADH, and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented the rule to finalize updates regarding lead-based paint activities.

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

**ADH, Division for Health Protection, Radiation Control Section, Review of Rule, Rules for Control of Sources of Ionizing Radiation [Exhibit T]**

Shane David, Branch Chief, ADH, and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented amendments to the rule regarding diagnostic mammography to comply with standards set by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and federal law.

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

**ADH, Division for Health Protection, Radiation Control Section, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to Radiologic Technology Licensure [Exhibit U]**

Shane David, Branch Chief, ADH, and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented the rule to update qualifications for two limited scope radiation modalities including licensure and credentialing options.

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

**ADH, Division for Public Health Practice, Environmental Health Branch, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Parks [Exhibit V]**

Terry Paul, Branch Chief, ADH, and Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented the rule to amend and update language regarding industry norms and changes as contemporary living facilities.

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

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.