

## MINUTES

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS  
Meeting Jointly**

**Monday, September 23, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

**Room A, MAC**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Bryan King, Chair; Representatives Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair; Julie Mayberry, Vice-Chair; Keith Brooks, Matt Brown, Matt Duffield, Charlene Fite, Tony Furman, Rick McClure, Stetson Painter, Shad Pearce, Aaron Pilkington, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, and Steve Unger

Other members present: Representatives Cameron Cooper, Grant Hodges, Johnny Rye, Kendon Underwood, and Danny Watson

Senator King called the meeting to order.

Senator King stated that without objection Representative Matt Brown would chair the meeting.

**Consideration to Approve the August 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Representative Springer made to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Brooks, and the motion carried.

**Discussion of the Closure of the Youth Challenge Program [Exhibit C]**

Jeff Wood, Chief of Staff, Arkansas Department of the Military, and Brigadier General Bradley Cox, Assistant Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard, delivered a presentation regarding the closure of the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program, highlighting the significant staff turnover and recruitment issues the program faced. He mentioned that multiple investigations into staff conduct with cadets ultimately resulted in the program's closure.

**Review of Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), Quarterly Oversight Report, April – June 2024 [Exhibit D]**

Major Jeff Drew, Commander, CACD, reviewed the quarterly report detailing the types of child abuse calls that were received as well as the number which were substantiated.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.