

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

9:00 AM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Ben Gilmore, Chair; Reginald Murdock, Vice Chair; Alan Clark, Mark Johnson, Bryan King, Dan Sullivan, and Dave Wallace; Representatives Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair; Mary Bentley, Vice Chair; Lincoln Barnett, Keith Brooks, Nick Burkes, Paul Childress, Matt Duffield, James Eaton, Tony Furman, Diana Gonzales Worthen, Dolly Henley, Rick McClure, Jessie McGruder, Jason Nazarenko, Shad Pearce, and Randy Torres

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell, Scott Flippo, and Matt Stone; Representatives Fred Allen, Howard Beaty, Rick Beck, Stan Berry, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Zach Gramlich, David Ray, Dwight Tosh, Steven Walker, and Jeff Wardlaw

Senator Gilmore called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B4]

Senator Wallace made a motion to approve the November 18th, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Senator Gilmore, and the motion carried.

Representative Bentley made a motion to approve the December 2nd, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Representative McClure, and the motion carried.

Senator Wallace made a motion to approve the December 4th, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Senator Gilmore, and the motion carried.

Senator Wallace made a motion to approve the December 6th, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Senator Gilmore, and the motion carried.

Department of Human Services (DHS) – Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Rules Pertaining to Safety and Risk Management and Technical Revisions [Exhibit C]

Amber Sartain, Assistant Director, Policy, Practice, and Training, DCFS, presented a proposal to revise the current practices outlined in the DCFS policy manual. This revision includes updates to the language in response to Act 364 from the 94th General Assembly.

Representative Bentley made a motion to review the rule, seconded by Representative McClure, and the motion carried.

Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS [Exhibits D1-D4]

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, presented the following reports: Quarterly Performance Report January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025, and the Biannual Overturned Investigations Report.

Presentation of Restore Hope: 100 Families – Paul Chapman, Director, Restore Hope [Exhibit E]

Paul Chapman Director, Restore Hope, delivered a presentation on collaborative efforts to move individuals from crisis to career, which would ultimately benefit children.

Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) – Kalika Rogers, Investigations Administrator, CACD [Exhibits F1-F3]

Kalika Roger, Investigations Administrator, CACD, reviewed the 2024 Annual Report, which detailed the number of contacts made, and accepted. The data presented also compares past years with that of calendar year 2024.

Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committee

Senator Wallace made a motion to approve the Special Expenses, seconded Representative Nazarenko, and the motion carried.

With no other business the meeting adjourned 10: 15 a.m.