

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

1:00 PM

Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Ben Gilmore, Chair; Alan Clark, Mark Johnson, and Jim Petty; Representatives Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair; Mary Bentley, Vice Chair; Glenn Barnes, Nick Burkes, Paul Childress, Matt Duffield, Hope Duke, James Eaton, Tony Furman, Diana Gonzales Worthen, Dolly Henley, Rick McClure, Jason Nazarenko, Joy Springer, and Randy Torres

Other members present: Senators Tyler Dees, Jim Dotson, and Fredrick Love; Representatives Brandon Achor, Howard Beaty, Stan Berry, Karilyn Brown, Alyssa Brown, Brian Evans, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Aaron Pilkington, Ryan Rose, Johnny Rye, and DeAnn Vaught;

Representative Barker called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the September 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Representative Bentley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Senator Johnson, and the motion carried.

Appointment to the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee

Representative Bentley made a motion to reappoint Senator Clark to the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee, seconded by Representative McClure, and the motion carried.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal 2025-087 by Representative Mary Bentley –Study the Revision of Existing Procedures Governing the Child Abuse Hotline and Subsequent Investigations of Alleged Child Maltreatment; and the Creation of a More Standardized Procedure for the Acceptance or Non-acceptance of a Report of Alleged Child Maltreatment to the Child Abuse Hotline, Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Maltreatment to the Child Abuse Hotline, and Subsequent Investigations of Alleged Child Maltreatment [Exhibit D]

Representative Bentley made a motion to adopt ISP 2025-087, seconded by Representative McClure, and the motion carried.

Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS [Exhibits E1- E7]

Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, presented the following reports; Biannual Overturned Investigations Report; Annual Report SFY 2025; Quarterly Performance Report, July 1 – September 30, 2025; Garrett's Law Summary, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025; and Arkansas Family Preservation Services SFY 2025.

Arkansas State Police, Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) – Kalika Rogers, Investigations Administrator, CACD [Exhibits F1- F2]

Kalika Rogers, Investigations Administrator, CACD, reviewed the Quarterly Oversight Report, July – September 2025, which outlined the various types of child abuse phone calls received and highlighted the number of cases that were substantiated.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

DRAFT