

## MINUTES

### HOUSE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Monday, October 10, 2022**

**1:00 PM**

**Room B, MAC**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Representatives Julie Mayberry, Chair; Gayla H. McKenzie, Vice-Chair; Cindy Crawford, and Joy Springer

Other members present: Senator Larry Teague; Representatives Mary Bentley, Stan Berry, Craig Christiansen, Cameron Cooper, Marsh Davis, Denise Garner, Jimmy Gazaway, Fredrick Love, Johnny Rye, and Danny Watson

Representative Mayberry called the meeting to order.

#### **Approval of the June 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Representative Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes and, without objection, the motion carried.

#### **Video of the “Little Vikes” Program from the Winfield Early Learning Center [Exhibit C]**

Representative Mayberry discussed the Little Vikes program from the Winfield Early Learning Center and the impact it would have if implemented in Arkansas.

#### **Presentation of the Current State of Child Care [Exhibits D1-D3]**

Ms. Tonya Williams, Director, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Department of Human Services (DHS); Ms. Geania Dickey, Public Policy Chair, Arkansas Early Childhood Association; and Mr. Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, DHS; discussed child care in Arkansas and ways to build early childhood care.

#### **Presentation of Southside School District’s Child Care System [Exhibits E1-E2]**

Ms. Novella Humphrey, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs, Southside School District; Ms. Lisa McGhee, Early Childhood Director, Southside School District; and Ms. Sonia Wright-McMurray, Senior Associate Director, Southside School District; gave a presentation of the child care systems at Southside School District.

#### **Presentation of Economic Incentives for Businesses Interested in Developing Childcare Facilities [Exhibit F]**

Mr. Jim Hudson, Chief of Staff, Department of Commerce, presented economic incentives for businesses developing childcare facilities. In addition, he discussed childcare staffing, income tax credits, and tax refunds available.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.