

MINUTES
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AUTISM
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
11:00 AM
Room B, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senator Justin Boyd, Co-Chair; Representative Denise Jones Ennett, Co-Chair

Non-legislative members present: Dr. Jeff Adams, Jennifer Breeze, J.D. Schupp, Dr. Angela Scott, Dr. Shelia Smith, Thomas Smith, Dr. Michael Taylor, and Melissa Weatherton

Other members present: Representatives Joey Carr, Denise Garner, and Jason Nazarenko

Representative Ennett called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve November 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Representative Boyd made a motion to adopt the minutes, seconded by Jennifer Breeze, and the motion carried.

Presentation on Arkansas State University's HOWL and ATLAS Transition Programs [Exhibit C]

Dr. Kristin Johnson, Executive Director, RESTORE Hub, Arkansas State University and Shane Broadway, Vice President for University Relations, Arkansas State University System, explained the HOWL and ATLAS programs and the different academic tracks for students.

Presentation on University of Central Arkansas's ASCEND Program [Exhibit D]

Dr. Debbie Dailey, Interim Dean, College of Education, University of Central Arkansas and Jeremy Gillam, Director of Governmental Affairs and External Relations, University of Central Arkansas, discussed the ASCEND program and took suggestions for how to expand their alternative activity options for students.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.