

MINUTES
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AUTISM
Thursday, December 15, 2022
2:00 PM
Room 171, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senator Keith Ingram, Co-Chair

Non-legislative members present: Ms. Karan Burnette, Ms. Elizabeth Pitman, Mrs. Diane Schratz Rogers, Ms. Mariel Spicer, Ms. Alyssa Tomlinson, Ms. Melissa Weatherton

Other members present: Senator Greg Leding

Senator Ingram called the meeting to order.

Comments by Co-Chairs

Sen. Ingram read a letter from Rep. Davis, Co-Chair.

Approval of Minutes for the May 24, 2022 and October 10, 2022 Meetings [Exhibits C1 and C2]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Review of Division of Developmental Disabilities Services' (DDS) Data on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Hours Provided Under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment to School-Aged Children

Ms. Melissa Weatherton, Director, DDS, Department of Human Services (DHS) reported that DDS has decided to file an autism waiver, plans to promulgate a ABA manual, and enact new rates in the summer of 2023.

Creation of White Paper in Order to Assist Families in Identifying Quality ABA Treatment

Ms. Karan Burnette and Dr. Elizabeth Lorah discussed their ideas for content, including location of services and funding options, parent involvement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. They will develop a draft to bring to the committee for approval.

Discussion of Task Force Membership

Sen. Ingram requested that staff put together a list of vacant positions in the task force.

Discussion of Task Force Co-Chairs for the 94th General Assembly

Sen. Ingram announced Rep. Brooks and Sen. Leding as Co-Chairs.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.