

# ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Minutes of the Meeting  
January 11, 2024

11:30 A.M. or Upon adjournment of the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and  
Water Committee of Reference and House Government Committee of Reference  
and House Subcommittee on Budgetary Funding Formulas, HHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2024011024>

### Members Present:

Senator Thomas "T.J." Shope, Co-Chair  
Senator Sally Ann Gonzales  
Senator Juan Mendez  
Senator Janae Shamp  
Senator Justine Wadsack

Representative Steve Montenegro, Co-Chair  
Representative Selina Bliss  
Representative Patricia Contreras  
Representative Matt Gress  
Representative Gail Griffin  
Representative Alma Hernandez\*  
Representative Christopher Mathis  
Representative Barbara Parker  
Representative Julie Willoughby

### Members Excused:

Senator Sonny Borrelli  
Senator Theresa Hatathlie

Representative Amish Shah\*

The Speaker approved the following temporary appointments:

\*Representative Lupe Contreras replaced Representative Amish Shah at 4:27 p.m.

\*Representative Consuelo Hernandez replaced Representative Alma Hernandez at 4:27 p.m.

### Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Health and Human Services Research Analyst  
Kaytie Sherman, Senate Health and Human Services Assistant Research Analyst  
Dhaky Mullangi, Senate Health and Human Services Research Intern  
Ahjahna Graham, House Health and Human Services Research Analyst  
Montserrat Torres, House Health and Human Services Assistant Research Analyst  
Kayla Thackeray, House Health and Human Services Research Intern

Co-Chair Shope called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. and attendance was noted.

## INTRODUCTION

Senator Shope offered opening comments.

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

**Jeff Gove, Office of the Auditor General**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Foster Care Review Board, Performance Audit and Sunset Review" (Attachment A).

### **Response by the Foster Care Review Board and the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts**

**Caroline Lutt-Owens, Director, Dependent Children Services Division, Administrative Office of the Courts**, gave an overview of the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB), distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Foster Care Review Board, Advocating for Arizona's Most Vulnerable Citizens" (Attachment B).

Ms. Lutt-Owens answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

**Anna Young, Judge, Yavapai County Superior Court**, gave an overview of the court process, the use of the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) reports and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Kris Jacober, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the FCRB and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Kari Hancock Handley, representing self**, testified in opposition to the continuation of the FCRB and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Peter Bartolini, representing self**, testified in opposition to the continuation of the FCRB.

**Arlene Willes, representing self**, testified in opposition to the continuation of the FCRB and submitted a copy of her testimony (Attachment C).

**Anika Robinson, representing self**, testified in opposition to the continuation of the FCRB.

**Bruce Brannan, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the FCRB and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Crystal Nuttle, representing self**, testified on the foster care system and submitted a copy off her testimony (Attachment D).

**Dan Crane, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the FCRB.

**Kristy Dupree, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the FCRB.

**Linda Bohling, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the FCRB.

Mr. Crane answered questions posed by the Committee.

Judge Young answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

Representative Montenegro displayed on the screen and read Recommendation 2 for the Foster Care Review Board Sunset Review (Attachment E).

**Lindsey Perry, Auditor General**, answered questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Montenegro offered comments.

**Representative Montenegro moved that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference approve the recommendations for the Arizona Foster Care Review Board (Attachment E) as presented on January 11, 2024 at 4:14 p.m.**

**Representative Parker offered a substitute motion that the Arizona Foster Care Review Board be terminated and all authority, duties, responsibilities and funding be transferred to the Casa of Arizona Office to further the purpose of the court appointed special advocate program. The motion FAILED with a roll call vote of 2-12-3-0 (Attachment 1).**

**Representative Montenegro's original motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 13-1-3-0 (Attachment 2).**

Representative Parker explained her vote.

### **RECESS**

At 4:20 p.m. the Co-Chair Shope recessed the meeting to the sound of the gavel.

### **RECONVENE**

At 4:27 p.m. the Co-Chair Shope called the meeting to order.

Representative Lupe Contreras replaced Representative Amish Shah.  
Representative Consuelo Hernandez replaced Representative Alma Hernandez.

**Daniel Butters, representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the FCRB.

**Morgan Butters representing self**, testified in support of continuation of the FCRB.

The Committee offered comments.

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE BOARD OF NURSING CARE INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATORS AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY MANAGERS**

### **Presentation by the Board of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers**

**Jack Confer, Executive Director, Nursing Care Board**, gave an overview of the Board, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Joint Health and Human Services Committee" (Attachment F) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

**Marie Isaacson, Arizona Leading Age**, testified in support of the continuation of the Board of Nursing Care Institution Administrators (NCIA) and Assisted Living Facility Managers.

**Karen Barno, Arizona Assisted Living Federation of America**, testified in support of the continuation of the Board of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers.

**Becky Hill, Family Representative, NCIA Board**, testified in support of the continuation of the Board of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers.

Senator Gonzales submitted a letter from Maria Gomez Murphy (Attachment G).

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

**Representative Montenegro moved that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference recommends that the Board of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers be continued for 8 years until July 1, 2032. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote 13-0-4-0 (Attachment 3).**

Senator Shamp and Representative Griffin explained their vote.

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

### **Presentation by the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy**

**Judy Chepeus, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference" (Attachment H) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

**Tom Dorn, Arizona Physical Therapy Association**, testified in support of the continuation of the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy.

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

**Representative Montenegro moved that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference recommends that the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy be continued for 8 years until July 1, 2032. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote 13-0-4-0 (Attachment 4).**

## **SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA PIONEERS' HOME, STATE HOSPITAL FOR MINERS WITH DISABILITIES**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Pioneers' Home, State Hospital for Miners with Disabilities**

**Jessica Sullivan, Superintendent, State of Arizona Pioneers' Home**, distributed and explained a packet of information entitled "Arizona Pioneers' Home, State of Arizona" (Attachment I).

### **Public Testimony**

No public testimony took place.

### **Discussion and Recommendation**

**Representative Montenegro moved that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee of Reference and House Health and Human Services Committee of Reference recommends that the Arizona Pioneers' Home, State Hospital for Miners with Disabilities be continued for 8 years until July 1, 2032. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote 13-0-4-0 (Attachment 5).**

Representatives Bliss and Griffin explained their vote.

## **REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM**

### **Presentation by the Arizona Office of the Auditor General**

**Lindsey Perry, Auditor General**, provided background information on the audit requirements of the Arizona Adult Protective Services System.

Senator Shope offered comments.

**Michel Lahti, LeCroy & Milligan**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Senate and House Health and Human Services Committees of Reference: Examining the Delivery of Services to Vulnerable Adults in the Arizona Adult Protective Services System" (Attachment J).

Representative Gress offered comments.

### **Responses by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Health Services and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System**

**Molly McCarthy, Assistant Director, Aging and Adult Services, Arizona Department of Economic Security**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Response - Adult Protective Services System Audit" (Attachment K) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Jekenna Lebsock, Assistant Director, Division of Health Care Services, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System**, responded to the Auditor General's report.

**Tom Salow, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Health Services**, responded to the Auditor General's Report and answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Public Testimony**

No public testimony took place.

### **Discussion**

No discussion took place.

Attached are forms noting the individual who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment L).

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their position on the agenda items (Attachment M).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Gardner  
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)