

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

July 15, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services was held on July 15, 2025, at 10:30 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Wade Williams, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Wade Williams Co-Chair; Senator Craig Richardson Co-Chair; Senators Stephen Meredith, Karen Berg, and Lindsey Tichenor; Representatives Samara Heavrin, Robert Duvall, Ken Fleming, DJ Johnson, Rebecca Raymer, Lisa Willner, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Dr. Steven Stack, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Tricia Steward, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Carrie Storms, R.N., Director, Division of Health Care, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Mike Tuggle, Administrative Branch Manager, Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Matt Johnson, Director, Division of Laboratory Services, Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

LRC Staff: Miriam Fordham, Kevin Newton, and Jennifer Luttrell.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Meredith made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2025 meeting of the subcommittee. Senator Richardson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

Overview and Status Update on the Long-Term Care Certification Surveys

Dr. Steven Stack, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Tricia Steward, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Carrie Storms, R.N., Director, Division of Health Care, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided an update on long-term care certification surveys.

In response to a question from Senator Tichenor, Ms. Steward noted that a priority one case is when the Office of Inspector General (OIG) receives a complaint alleging that a resident in a long-term care facility has received harm or has a high likelihood to receive

harm. One example of this is if a resident elopes, or leaves the facility unsupervised.

In response to questions from Senator Berg, Ms. Steward said that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires long-term care certification surveys to be completed every 12 to 15.7 months. Ms. Steward stated that the OIG is on target to have all long-term care centers receive a certification survey in 2024 or 2025. The OIG believes all long-term care center certification surveys will be within the 15.7 month mandate by March 31, 2026.

In response to a question from Senator Meredith, Dr. Stack said that the survey backlog began because of high vacancies and low wages within the OIG. Dr. Stack noted that wages were increased by the legislature in the last budget.

In response to a question from Representative Willner, Ms. Steward noted that the OIG now employs 40 contract surveyors.

Overview and Status Update on Funding for the Public Health Transformation Initiative

Dr. Steven Stack, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Mike Tuggle, Administrative Branch Manager, Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided a status update on the Public Health Transformation Initiative.

Status Update on the Central Laboratory Expansion Project

Dr. Steven Stack, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Matt Johnson, Director, Division of Laboratory Services, Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided an update on the central laboratory expansion project.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM.