

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee

Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 3:00 PM
Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275, Little Rock, AR 72201

A meeting of the Arkansas Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee (“Committee”) was held on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 3:00 PM in the Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275 and via Zoom virtual meeting. Present at the meeting were Arkansas Treasurer of State Larry Walther; Stephen Bright, Chief of Staff; Eric Munson, Chief Deputy Treasurer; Fran Jansen, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education; Chris Scott, Manager, 529 Programs; Joseph Baxter, Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; Kristie Hayes, Program Administrator, Arkansas Department of Human Services (Designee for the Secretary of Arkansas Department of Human Services); and Kim Shockley with Ascensus College Savings.

The press was notified in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Treasurer Walther called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

Treasurer Walther presented for approval minutes of the September 14, 2023, meeting. Joseph Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes, Kristie Hayes seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

In her director’s report, Fran reviewed recent outreach efforts which included Easter Seals, St. Bernard’s Hospital in Jonesboro, and state employee benefits fairs at the State Capitol and at the Department of Commerce. Fran also reported having made presentations at the Tyler Dannaway Foundation Autism Conference, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Office of the Courts, Arkansas Work Incentives staff, and the Arkansas Medicaid Family Council. She concluded her report by informing the committee that the office was in discussions with the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights Arkansas on addressing financial literacy in the disability community.

As an additional outreach opportunity, Kristie Hayes offered an introduction to the Arkansas Brain Injury Council, in which the office expressed great interest.

Next, Kim Shockley reported on the Arkansas ABLE Plan assets, contributions, distributions, and account statistics. She reported that total assets were \$5.2 million, still predominantly allocated in the conservative investment portfolio and the checking account options. Kim said that contribution frequencies showed no pattern other than year over year growth.

For new business, Fran proposed March 7 for the next quarterly meeting.

There being no further business, Treasurer Walther moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Jansen, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education