**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee**

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 9:00 am

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 Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 9:00 am in the Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275. Present at the meeting were Grant Wallace with the Treasurer’s Office (Designee for Treasurer of State); Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education Emma Willis; 529 Programs and Financial Education Administrative Assistant Chris Scott; Joseph Baxter Deputy Commissioner Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (Designee for the Commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Department of Career Education).

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

Grant Wallace called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Grant presented the minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting. Joseph Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes, and the minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Grant made a report highlighting the ABLE legislation (Act 59) which prohibited a ‘Clawback’ of funds in an Arkansas ABLE plan on the state level. He also mentioned that House Bill 1075 for up to a $5,000 state income tax deduction per taxpayer (based on annual contribution) was in process and that we would provide regular updates.

Emma Willis reported on the assets under management, stating that to date, there were 78 open accounts with $99,479.19 assets under management, with an average account size of $1,275.37. Emma noted that the partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services and Arkansas Promise have been a tremendous help.

Emma continued with a report on the budget, stating that the plan was still well within its allowances from the appropriation from the Treasurer’s office, and noting that the largest expenses to date has been for legal counsel while getting the plan up and running. Emma also noted that there had been some travel and conference expenses.

Emma then started a conversation on what the next steps for the Arkansas ABLE plan would be, putting an emphasis on train the trainer events. Dave Mills and Joseph Baxter both agreed with this emphasis and both suggested upcoming events from their respective organizations that they felt would be a great fit for the Arkansas ABLE plan to participate in. Grant noted that during the ‘Train the Trainer’ events, the emphasis should be on how the plan interacts with the population that the organization services.

There being no further business, Grant Wallace moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Willis, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education