**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee**

Monday, October 19, 2017 at 2:30 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 Monday, October 19, 2017 at 2:30 pm in the Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275. Present at the meeting were Grant Wallace with the Treasurer’s Office; Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education Emma Willis; 529 Programs and Financial Education Administrative Assistant Chris Scott; Dave Mills Department of Human Services Program Administrator (Designee for Director of Human Services); 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 2:36 pm.

Three firms considered ‘finalists’ (BNY Mellon, Nottingham, and Interstate Alliance) each made a presentation regarding potentially managing the Arkansas ABLE Program.

Emma Willis led a discussion after the RFP presentations as well as provided the pricing proposal of each of the firms.

Emma Willis also initiated a conversation regarding the final scores of all of the firms that responded to the ABLE RFP where it was determined that both BNY Mellon and Nottingham’s proposals as a whole were not a good fit for the state of Arkansas in relation to the ABLE program.

Emma gave an update on the APA Process through which the ABLE Program will adopt new rules and regulations.

Dave Mills motioned for the rejection of all offers from the RFP, Joseph Baxter seconded, and the motion carried through a voice vote, as until the new Rules and Regulations are adopted, Arkansas cannot enter into an “Interstate Agreement” with other states.

It was determined that the ABLE public comment hearing would be on November 28th, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

There being no further business, Grant Wallace moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Willis, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education