**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee**

Thursday, November 8, 2018 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 Thursday, November 8, 2018 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), and TJ Lawhon with Dover Dixon Horne.

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 August 17, 2018 meeting. Grant Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes. Joseph Baxter seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Emma Willis made a report highlighting the ABLE launch on October 25th, The Train the Trainer event on October 5th, and a review of ABLE collateral materials, noting that print materials were on the way. Emma also showed the committee the website for Arkansas’ ABLE plan.

Emma Willis then led a discussion on the next steps for the ABLE committee, specifically regarding the frequency of which the committee should meet, considering that we are part of the National ABLE Alliance, and that some measurers before the Alliance are passed via a vote, and Emma needs to know the desired decision of the committee before casting a vote on their behalf. Joseph Baxter stated that the committee should continue with quarterly meetings and should input from himself or Dave Mills be needed for changes in the program description, investment structures, or collateral, a special meeting may need to be held, depending on the subject matter.

Grant Wallace reported on the checks and invoices for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2018, consisting of legal expenses, travel expenses, and expenses relating to the Train the Trainer event.

TJ Lawhon reported on the age of majority options that had been presented to Emma as well as the Clawback language associated with Medicare. Grant Wallace stated that as there is no existing language for Medicaid Clawback when it comes to ABLE, he reached out to Kelley Linck at DHS to receive direction. He stated that until he has a definitive answer, at this time we will move forward with excluding any Medicaid Clawback language on ABLE materials.

Speaking on the age of majority, TJ stated that the decision was made to, once the beneficiary becomes 18 years of age, automatically change to the minor being in control of the account, with the guardian being removed. He continued that the guardian would most likely be aware of any cognitive limitations of the beneficiary and already be working to maintain legal guardianship. Ascensus will also be sending out a letter 60 days in advance of the change to the Account Owner and Guardian stating the coming change if no action is taken.

There being no further business, Grant Wallace moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Willis, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education