

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee

Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 10:30 AM
Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275, Little Rock, AR 72201

A meeting of the Arkansas Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee (“ABLE Committee”) was held on December 9, 2025, at 10:30 AM in the Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275 and via Zoom virtual meeting. Present at the meeting were Kenneth Burleson, Deputy Treasurer (as designee for Treasurer of State, John Thurston); Joseph Baxter, Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; Jennifer Dedman, Health Program Supervisor, Arkansas Department of Human Services (Designee for the Secretary of Arkansas Department of Human Services); Chris Scott, Acting Director, 529 Programs and Financial Education; Kim Shockley and Johnny Saldana with Ascensus College Savings; a member of the press; and other staff from the Treasurer of State’s Office.

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

Deputy Treasurer Burleson called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. He then presented the meeting minutes from September 25, 2025, and made a motion for approval. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Scott gave the director’s report highlighting that from September through October, the Arkansas ABLE program expanded statewide outreach through sponsorships and community engagement, including visibility at the Disabled American Veterans Open Big Bass Fishing Tournament in Russellville, where branding and a radio interview helped boost awareness. The team also participated in the National Disability Employment Awareness Month kickoff at the State Capitol, Disability Awareness Day in Conway, Achieve Community Alliance’s Fall Festival, and the DDPA fall conference in Texarkana, frequently speaking to the upcoming ABLE Age Adjustment Act.

Kim Shockley reported on the Arkansas ABLE Plan assets, contributions, distributions, and account statistics. Mrs. Shockley summarized that the plan currently has 1,198 funded accounts with over \$9.1 Million in assets, over 60% of those continued to be allocated towards the conservative and checking account options, and programmatic changes related to the age of onset increase scheduled to go live in 2026.

Mr. Scott advised that since the committee last met and discussed Act 937, the Treasurer’s office had determined that based on current law, remaining in the Alliance is impracticable for both the committee and the population the plan serves. Further, the Arkansas ABLE plan committee needs to be provided with the ability to consider and implement investment changes at their own discretion. Deputy Treasurer Burleson then made a motion that as a result of Act 937, we find it is no longer practicable to continue in the Alliance and therefore, we are asking the committee to exit the Alliance and give the Treasurer’s office authority and permission to enter into any and all necessary contracts and agreements as needed for the establishment and operation of an individual state ABLE plan. Ms. Dedman seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with all in favor.

There being no further business, Treasurer Thurston moved to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Scott, Acting Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education