

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Committee**

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 2023, at 2:00 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 Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the Victory Building Conference Room, Suite 275 and via Zoom virtual meeting. Present at the meeting were Eric Munson, Chief Deputy Treasurer (Designee for Treasurer of State Mark Lowery); Fran Jansen, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education; Chris Scott, Manager, 529 Programs, Heather McKim, Chief of Public Affairs for Treasurer Lowery; Dave Ponder with Ascensus College Savings; Joseph Baxter, Commissioner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; and Kristie Hayes, Program Administrator, Arkansas Department of Human Services (Designee for the Secretary of Arkansas Department of Human Services).

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

Eric Munson called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Eric then presented for approval the minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting. Kristie Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes, Joseph Baxter seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

In her director’s report, Fran reviewed outreach efforts, which included participation at the annual Developmental Disabilities Providers Association conference in April. She also mentioned the ongoing work with Ascensus and the National ABLE Alliance to establish an online enrollment process for SSA Representative Payees. Fran then informed the committee that she and Chris had been meeting with human resource personnel at various state agencies to inform/remind them that the ABLE plan is a payroll direct deposit option for their employees. She indicated that many of the agencies asked her and Chris to come back during open enrollment fairs in the fall. Chris closed by briefing the committee on the Treasury Management Training Symposium that he attended in Portland in June.

Joseph Baxter followed by asking Chris and Fran to make an ABLE presentation at an upcoming Arkansas Rehabilitation Services area managers meeting. Fran accepted the invitation and asked Joseph to send her specific dates.

Dave Ponder then reported on the ABLE Plan assets, contributions, distributions, and account statistics. He reported that total assets were at \$4.57 million, predominantly allocated in the conservative investment portfolio and the checking account option. Dave said that contributions for the month of May were over \$219,000, coming in primarily from EBT and checks. Dave noted that distributions continue to increase on pace with the assets.

For new business, Fran proposed September 12<sup>th</sup> for the next quarterly meeting.

There being no further business, Eric Munson moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Jansen, Director of 529 Programs and Financial Education