

**State Employee Advisory Commission and
Public-School Advisory Commission Minutes**

Special Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was recorded and is available upon request through the Department of Shared Administrative Services. The following members were present:

ASE Commission Members Present:

**Ronda Walthall
Marty Casteel
Cynthia Dunlap**

PSE Commission Members Present:

**Kurt Knickrehm
Zinnia Clanton
Debbie Jones**

Also in attendance were Grant Wallace, Director of the Employee Benefits Division, and Fran Jansen, Deputy Director of the Employee Benefits, along with staff from the Employee Benefits Division, EBRx, Public Consulting Group, Colonial Life, and Navitus Health Solutions.

Chairwoman Dunlap called the meeting to order after confirming a quorum was present.

Chairwoman Dunlap recognized Grant Wallace, Director of the Employee Benefits Division, to present two contracts for consideration. Director Wallace explained that the contracts were presented at this time to allow for approval at the June Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) meeting and to ensure sufficient time to prepare the documents for open enrollment.

Director Wallace presented the first contract for third-party administrative services. He explained that the agreement included health claims administration, medical management, and other administrative services traditionally included under the plan. Director Wallace stated that the contract is anticipated to be awarded to BlueAdvantage Administrators of Arkansas (formerly Health

Advantage) for a seven-year term with an estimated value of \$418 million. The contract will provide service to all active employees and retiree Medicare Supplemental plan participants.

Director Wallace then presented the second contract for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with ComPsych. He explained that the proposed seven-year contract has an estimated value of \$6.9 million and expands available resources through both telehealth and in-person behavioral health services. Director Wallace noted that ComPsych will continue to provide three counseling sessions per incident, up to 500 hours of critical incident response services, and additional onsite support services as needed. Following the presentation, Chairwoman Dunlap requested a motion to approve the BlueAdvantage and ComPsych contracts. Ronda Walthall made the motion, which was seconded by Zinnia Clanton. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Chairwoman Dunlap adjourned the meeting.