

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

**September 9, 2025**

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 09:00 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  
Shane David  
Marty Casteel**

**PSE Commission Members Present:**

**Billy Jackson  
Debbie Jones  
Greg Rogers  
Julie Bates  
Kurt Knickrehm**

Others present were Grant Wallace, Director of Employee Benefits Division, and Amanda Land, Deputy Director of Employee Benefits Division. Also present were staff from the Employee Benefits Division, EBRx, Milliman, and Navitus Health Solutions.

Director Wallace, seeing a quorum, called the meeting to order. He noted that there were only two contracts on the agenda for review and that the goal was to finalize both for inclusion in the September ALC meeting.

The first contract presented is a new agreement for Health Savings Account (HSA), Flexible Spending Account (FSA), and COBRA products. The selected vendor is Beneliance, whose notice of intent to award was recently posted. The team is now seeking review and approval of this contract. The total contract value over the full seven-year term is approximately \$2.3 million, with the initial three-year term valued at \$966,000. The current incumbent for these services is Optum Financial Services. Beneliance, formerly known as

Datapath, is an Arkansas-based company headquartered in Little Rock with over 30 years of experience in the industry. The committee expressed enthusiasm about partnering with them as a new vendor.

A motion to approve the Beneliance contract was made by Kurt Knickrehm and was seconded by Billy Jackson. All members were in favor.

The second contract presented is a one-year extension for Colonial Life, which provides life, accidental death, and disability insurance services. This extension allows additional time to properly develop and issue a new Request for Proposals (RFP). As the team continues researching this area, the goal is to ensure the RFP is structured effectively to attract the most competitive bids and achieve the best value for the state. This extension will maintain services for one additional year. Notably, a rate reduction for 2026 has been calculated and is reflected in the final contract amounts presented for review.

A motion to approve the Colonial Life extension was made by Kurt Knickrehm and was seconded by Rhonda Walthall. All members were in favor.

With no further business to discuss, Director Wallace adjourned the meeting.