

MINUTES
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA ADVISORY COUNCIL
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
10:00 AM
Hot Springs Convention Center, 134 Convention Blvd, Rooms 207, 208, 209
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Clint Penzo, Co-Chair

Non-legislative members present: Naomi Atkinson (Non-Voting), Dr. Gohar Azhar, Mindy Brigance, David Cook, Kimberly Kinder, Dr. Amyleigh Overton-McCoy, Cristy Sellers (Non-Voting), and Jodiane Tritt

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell, and Fredrick J. Love

Senator Penzo Called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Minutes from July 9, 2026, Meeting [Exhibit B]

David Cook made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Amyleigh Overton-McCoy. The motion carried.

Discussion of New Pharmaceutical Drugs to Treat People with Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Gohar Azhar, Co-Director, Cardiovascular Aging Research; Reynolds Dept of Geriatrics and Institute on Aging, discussed medication; the affordability of said medication, how they decide who gets the medication; the duration of medication treatment; and how it works in treating the patient.

Discussion of Legislative Changes to Existing Statute

David Cook, Director of Government Affairs, Alzheimer's Association, Arkansas Chapter, discussed concerns about attendance and participation of the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Advisory Council. Cook suggested new members and adding new positions to expand the council.

Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates

Senator Penzo suggested a meeting at the end of August or in September. The next meeting is set for August 25, 2026, at 10AM. Senator Penzo mentioned a discussion on legislative changes to current statute. The Advisory Council showed interest in discussing more funding.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned around 11:00 a.m.