

Approved: March 8, 2012

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brenda Landwehr at 9:00 AM on Friday, January 27, 2012 in the Old Supreme Court Room of the Capitol building.

All members were present except:

- Representative Donohoe - Excused
- Representative Calloway - Excused
- Representative Denning - Excused
- Representative Trimmer - Excused
- Representative Hermanson - Excused
- Representative Alford - Excused
- Representative Mast - Excused
- Representative Mosier - Excused
- Representative Ward - Excused
- Representative Weber - Excused

Committee staff present:

- Katherine McBride, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Joseph Leiker, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Debbie Bartuccio, Committee Assistant

Conferees participating in the roundtable:

- Connie Hubbell, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (Attachments 2, 3 and 4)
- Christie Appelhans, Kansas Action for Children (No Attachment)
- Dr. Melinda Miner, Dentist (No Attachment)
- Dr. Dan Minnis, Dentist (No Attachment)
- Janette Delinger, Kansas Dental Hygiene Association (No Attachment)
- Dr. Ed Hammond, Ft. Hays State University (No Attachment)
- Kim Moore, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund (No Attachment)
- Brenda Sharpe, REACH Healthcare Foundation (No Attachment)
- Dave Sanford, GraceMed Health Clinic (No Attachment)
- Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association (No Attachment)
- Dr. Hal Hale, Wichita, Kansas (No Attachment)
- Dr. Larry McGary, Junction City, Kansas (No Attachment)
- Dr. Richard McFadden, Dodge City, Kansas (No Attachment)
- Dr. Cindi Sherwood, Independence, Kansas (No Attachment)
- Dr. Jeff Stasch, Garden City, Kansas (No Attachment)
- Dr. Paul Kittle, Leavenworth, Kansas (No Attachment)

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Committee at 9:00 AM on Friday, January 27, 2012 in the Old Supreme Court Room at the Capitol building.

Tanya Dorf Brunner, Oral Health Kansas (No Attachment)
B. Lane Hemsley, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Board (No Attachment)
Dr. Glen Hemberger, President, Kansas Dental Board (No Attachment)
Anna Lambertson (No Attachment)

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Chairperson Landwehr opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees to the Dental Workforce Roundtable. She announced there would be a short break around 10:30 AM while the House was in session and then the meeting would reconvene. Following introductions of attendees, Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department, reviewed a document which included a brief comparison of **HB 2280–Kansas dental board; licensure of dental practitioners, SB 192–Kansas dental board; licensure of dental practitioners, and SB 132–Dental care; increasing availability and access to dental care.** (Attachment 1)

Chairperson Landwehr emphasized to attendees this was their meeting and their opportunity to share their ideas and concerns. They should ask questions and make their specific points of view clear.

Connie Hubbell presented a brief overview of the legislation proposed for the establishment of a Registered Dental Practitioner. She stated the Kansas Dental Project, the Kansas Action for Children and the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition joined together because access to timely and affordable dental care is a top concern for the constituencies they represent and advocate on behalf of. Families are struggling to find access to care for their children, safety-net clinics are struggling to meet the demand and dental decay remains the number one childhood disease. The pending increase in the workforce shortage stands to leave Kansas in a critical position, and it's time that we create a sustainable solution. She reviewed the four key elements of the legislation: qualifications, supervision, practice locations and scope of practice. (Attachments 2, 3 and 4)

Kevin Robertson stated the Kansas Dental Association does understand there are citizens of the state that do not regularly receive dental care. They believe the issue has more to do with the inability of patients to pay for their care (lack of insurance or funds) and they are working with a local foundation to offer a type of solution. He thinks **SB 132** offers an opportunity to increase the number of dentists.

Attendees proceeded to provide their views on various aspects of the legislation and the proposal for the registered dental practitioner. Some comments included:

- The registered dental practitioner would allow dentists more time to focus on the more technical and difficult dental issues of their patients.
- There was much discussion concerning the procedures which could be performed by the registered dental practitioner and the amount of training they would receive.

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- Concern was expressed about the supervision being provided to the registered dental practitioner and the handling of situations which start out simple and end up being difficult and beyond the scope of practice for the registered dental practitioner.
- There was a comparison of the nurse practitioners who are invaluable to physicians and the thought the registered dental practitioner would provide a similar important resource to the dental profession.
- Some see this as a chance to have a limited practice person who can offer a lower cost for minor procedures allowing those with more difficult issues to go to the dentist. This would allow dentists to expand their capacity for service.
- The belief was expressed that a large number of Medicaid patients would benefit from the use of a registered dental practitioner. However, since adults are not covered for dental services under Medicaid, it still does not address the issue of adults in need of dental services.
- A suggestion was made for the groups to come together to create an acceptable curriculum for this level of practitioner.
- Kevin Robertson related the Board of Regents has a dental workforce access committee. They are looking at purchasing more dental seats at the dental school in Missouri and investigating the possibility of a dental school in Kansas.
- There was concern about the lack of dental care in rural areas and the requirement for many patients to drive an hour or more to reach a dentist. However, it was also acknowledged that people who live in rural areas are accustomed to driving an hour or more to run errands and acquire the services they need.

At the conclusion of the roundtable discussion, Chairperson Landwehr encouraged attendees on both sides of the issue to collaborate together. She inquired if perhaps at least some common ground could be found in a bill that would take a step forward toward improving dental services in Kansas.

She again thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2012.