

Approved: February 16, 2012

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 1:30 p.m. on February 1, 2012, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Long, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Tanya Dorf-Brunner, Oral Health Kansas
Doreen Eyler, Grace Medical
Brian Smith, PHD, Galena School District

Others attending:

See attached.

The Chair opened the hearing on **SB 326—Dental Hygiene; services for school children**. Staff stated that **SB 326** would amend current law by modifying the requirements under which certain school children may receive dental hygienist care. Current law allows school children who are eligible for free or reduced lunch programs to receive dental hygiene services. The bill would remove the income requirement and instead permit the practice of dental hygiene on school children who have not been seen by a dentist during the previous 12 months for dental examination.

Tanya Dorf Brunner, Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc. informed the committee that they are the statewide advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the importance of lifelong dental health by shaping policy and educating the public so Kansans know that all mouths matter. In the fall of 2010 Oral Health Kansas helped convene a group of stakeholders to review the Extended Care Permit law. This law allows dental hygienists with an Extended Care Permit to provide dental hygiene services in public settings, such as schools, nursing homes, and CDDOs. One key barrier the group noted was that the children who are eligible to be seen by ECP hygienists in schools are not always able to be seen. Therefore the work group's goal was to increase access to ECP hygiene services. Recently stakeholders have asked that both the free and reduced school lunch language and the language about not seeing a dentist in the last year both stay in the bill. This would offer a wider group of school children the opportunity to be seen and ensure the procedures that already work well in schools stay in place. They believe this bill, with the proposed amendment, will expand access to preventive dental services for underserved Kansas school children (Attachment #1).

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 1, 2012, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

Doreen Eyler, a registered dental hygienist with GraceMed, told the committee that GraceMed is one of the 38 Safety Net Clinics in Kansas. They are a federally qualified health center providing both medical and dental care for the people of Wichita and south central Kansas. They treat the uninsured, the underinsured, and the insured and accept Medicare, Health Wave and commercial insurances. Those without insurance are charged according to a sliding fee scale. The five GraceMed clinics provide medical care for over 57,000 patients per year. They employ seven full time dental hygienists with extended care permits II and four PRN extended care permit II dental hygienists to work not only in the clinical settings but also work in our outreach program.

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms Eyler reminded them that their services do not qualify as an exam, just a screening and they are trying to navigate the school nurse and family into a medical/dental home (Attachment #2).

Dr. Brian D. Smith, Superintendent of the Galena Unified School District, informed the Committee that even though Galena currently has no dentist, they take great pride in the oral health services that they are able to provide their students with the assistance of Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas. By adding the provision that students could be served who “have not been seen by a dentist during the previous 12 months for dental examination” more students would have access to oral health care. This would be a proactive measure to prevent future problems leading to absenteeism (Attachment #3).

Presenting written testimony in favor of **SB 326** was Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association (Attachment #4), Janette Delinger, Kansas Dental Hygentists Association (Attachment #5), Brett Roufs, DDS (Attachment #6), Dr. Kathy Weno, KDHE (Attachment #7), and Cathy Harding, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (Attachment #8).

There being no further discussion on **SB 326**, the hearing was closed.

The Chair called for final action on **SB 325—Controlled substances schedules IV and V** *It was moved by Senator Haley, seconded by Senator Reitz to recommend SB 325 as technically amended favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

The Chair then called for final action on **SB 331—Cosmetology licensure renewal**. *It was moved by Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Huntington to adopt the technical amendment.* Senator Steineger offered an additional amendment changing the wordage on Page 2, line 6 by deleting the word “one” and adding the word “two” After further discussion, the Chair asked the Senator to meet with staff on his proposed amendment.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 1, 2012, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.