

## MINUTES

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES

August 10 - 11, 2005  
Room 313-S—Statehouse

#### Members Present

Representative Willa DeCastro, Chairperson  
Senator Kay O'Connor, Vice Chairperson  
Senator David Haley  
Senator Laura Kelly  
Senator Roger Reitz  
Representative Bonnie Huy  
Representative Frank Miller  
Representative Sue Storm

#### Members Absent

Senator Susan Wagle  
Representative Marti Crow

#### Staff

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Corrigan, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Florence Deeter, Committee Secretary

#### Conferees

Robert Day, Director, Division of Health Policy and Finance, Kansas Department of Administration  
Scott Brunner, Director of Medical Policy/Medicaid, Division of Health Policy and Finance, Kansas Department of Administration  
Dennis Kasselmann, Vice President, First Guard of Kansas  
Jami DeGrave, Executive Director, Doral Dental USA, LLC  
Sam Donaldson, CEO and President, Cenpatico Behavioral Health, LLC  
Sky Westerlund, Executive Director, Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers  
Glenda Overstreet, Manager for Quality Assurance, Training and Marketing, MAXIMUS and Healthwave Clearinghouse Project  
Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary, Integrated Service Delivery, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

## **Others Attending**

See attached list.

## **Wednesday, August 10 Morning Session**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., welcoming the Committee and asking members to introduce themselves.

### **Overview of 2004 Joint Committee Activities**

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department, presented background information and an overview of the activities of the 2004 Joint Committee on Children's Issues and the history of the Committee ([Attachment 1](#)). One of the topics the 2004 Committee had reviewed was programs that serve children between birth and five. During her presentation, Ms. Correll mentioned that many of these programs have income related eligibility requirements. In response to questions about the incomes associated with particular eligibility levels, the Chairperson had staff distribute a copy of guidelines from a past year and requested an update on the numbers ([Attachment 2](#)).

### **HealthWave Changes**

Dr. Robert Day, Executive Director of the Division of Health Policy and Finance (DHPF), presented an update on the progress of implementation of 2005 Senate Bill 272 which includes changes to the HealthWave program ([Attachment 3](#)).

After his testimony, Dr. Day responded to several questions from the Committee. When asked about the number of children and adults in the program, he stated that there are currently 105,000 enrollees in HealthWave, with 11,000 of that number being adults, most of whom are pregnant women. When asked about the viability of Health Savings Accounts, Dr. Day indicated that such a program is a new concept being tested with state employees in the upcoming enrollment year and being considered for the other publicly financed health insurance programs. Finally, Dr. Day indicated that the DHPF is ready to launch a care management model pilot program in Sedgwick County to deal with chronic health conditions in an effort to more effectively manage health care costs.

## **Afternoon Session**

### **HealthWave Program Structure and Overview**

Scott Brunner, Director of Medical Policy/Medicaid in the Division of Health Policy and Finance, presented information on the HealthWave program ([Attachment 4](#)).

In answer to questions from the Committee, Mr. Brunner discussed marketing funding, eligibility and enrollment, absent parents, fraud, the costs of children in the program, and the verification process for documented aliens applying for the programs. The state currently spends \$300,000 in a contract with MAXIMUS, Inc. for advertising services. In cases of divorced and single parent families, electronic searches are used to determine whether a child is covered or is required to be insured by an absent parent. A toll-free number for reporting fraud concerns is currently not in place, but claims are monitored to detect fraudulent claims or service utilization. Mr. Brunner and Dr. Day responded to a series of questions regarding the value of having children insured under HealthWave and the costs for covering such children. Finally, Mr. Brunner answered questions relating to the verification of documentation for qualified aliens applying for coverage.

### **First Guard Health Plan**

Dennis Kasselmann, Vice President for Market Affairs, First Guard Health Plan, presented background information on his organization and its involvement with HealthWave ([Attachment 5](#)).

### **Doral Dental Services of Kansas, LLC**

Jami DeGrave, Kansas Executive Director of Doral Dental, provided testimony about the Kansas Medical Assistance (KMAP) dental program which includes Title XXI SCHIP and partial administration of Title XIX Medicaid services ([Attachment 6](#)).

In answer to questions from Committee members regarding the difference in number of dentists who serve Title XIX and Title XXI patients, Ms. DeGrave stated that the discrepancies may be accounted for by the population differences between urban and rural areas. She further stated that Doral is dedicated to making participation in the dental program as efficient as possible so dentists can focus on delivering high quality oral health care to all members.

### **Cenpatico Behavioral Health, LLC**

Sam Donaldson, Ph.D., CEO and President, Cenpatico Behavioral Health, LLC (CBH), presented information to the Committee regarding his company's involvement in the Kansas medical assistance programs ([Attachment 7](#)).

### **National Association of Social Workers**

Sky Westerlund, Executive Director, Kansas Chapter of National Association of Social Workers (KNASW), briefly addressed the Committee to address mental health services issues and the recognition for private practice social workers as providers for the Medicaid program ([Attachment](#)

8). Comments from the Chairperson regarding the increased success of children moving within the system were expressed along with appreciation to Ms. Westerlund for giving her time for the report.

## **MAXIMUS**

Glenda Overstreet, Manager for Quality Assurance, Training and Marketing, MAXIMUS, presented testimony to the Committee regarding services provided in the HealthWave program (Attachment 9).

Responding to questions from the Committee, Ms. Overstreet clarified MAXIMUS's role in the processing of HealthWave applications. State SRS staff and MAXIMUS work in tandem determining eligibility. In determining eligibility, staff perform a variety of electronic checks and verify information on applications in addition to reviewing required documentation of income. Ms. Overstreet further clarified that MAXIMUS is bound by state rules and regulations for confidentiality in the same way state eligibility staff are bound. Finally, she stated that contract arrangements with the State of Kansas are at a fixed rate paid monthly.

Ms. Overstreet indicated that further information could be provided regarding the total budget with the State along with more information on the process of verifying alien status and certification.

## **Other Activities**

Mike Corrigan, Office of Revisor of Statutes, gave a report on actions taken on bills recommended by the 2004 Joint Committee on Children's Issues. HB 2199, relating to informal supervision of a child, has not yet received a hearing. HB 2200 amends who can be present in the courtroom and who is to be excluded during proceedings. SB 261 was amended into HB 2200 and was passed in the 2005 Legislative Session. SB 4 extends the work of the Joint Committee on Children's Issues allowing them to conclude in 2006. The Chairperson reminded the Committee of their position as liaison between interim committee work and the session committees on which they serve. Should the Committee need to introduce new legislation, there is need for the Committee to be statutorily correct. Mr. Corrigan assured the Chairperson this would be addressed at the final meeting of the Interim Committee.

Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department, provided summaries of bills concerning children that were passed by the 2005 Legislature and signed by the Governor (Attachment 10).

The meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Thursday, August 11, 2005.

## **Thursday, August 11 Morning Session**

The meeting was reconvened by the Chairperson.

Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary of Integrated Services Delivery with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), presented information on "Child Welfare in Kansas: A Family Centered and Community Based System of Care" (Attachment 11).

In answer to Committee members' questions regarding reintegration/termination procedures, Ms. Shively indicated the average three-year adoption time span is too long. A new method is being put in place to have family meetings in which the family has a choice of who can facilitate the initial meeting. Examples of people a family might choose include a minister, neighbor, or another family member. A greater effort is being made to rely on family resources in considering placement of a child with next-of-kin. The Chairperson requested Ms. Shively bring statutory information at a later date stating who is qualified to be an adoptive parent. Ms. Shively also volunteered to provide an up-to-date fact sheet with details regarding family preservation and the cost differences of in-home and out-of-home services and the amount of Federal and State monies issued.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, Ms. Shively spoke of being committed to the changes proposed even though it is a challenging time commitment involving both staff training and family center care training.

### **Child Care Assistance Program**

The next topic addressed by the Committee was the Child Care Assistance Program at SRS. Testimony was again provided by Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary, Integrated Service Delivery (Attachment 12).

Bobbi Mariani, a staff member at SRS, responded to a member's question regarding latch-key kids. Specifically, the member asked whether there was a requirement for families to attempt to access such free programs before receiving state assistance. Ms. Mariani indicated that there was no such requirement but that due to transportation limitations consumers would likely opt for such a school-based program first if the child would otherwise need to be transported to another facility for care after school. A member of the Committee recommended that the Latch Key Program for a school age child be made a requirement for care as it is a potential cost savings for the family. Ms. Shively will take that recommendation under advisement with the Department.

A member of the Committee asked about the question of income verification to determine eligibility and whether there was an annual review of income. Ms. Shively's response indicated that pay stubs are requested and sometimes verification from the employer is pursued. She further stated that the subsidy is paid to the child care provider as opposed to the parent and that electronic transfer is currently being implemented.

### **Afternoon Session**

The Chairperson prefaced the afternoon session with explanation to clarify that the topic the Committee would be discussing concerned the Children's Budget. This spending information is included in the Governor's Budget recommendation each year but many new legislators are not aware of the issues covered.

Next, Emalene Correll gave background on children's programs and reviewed applicable budgetary outlays (Attachment 13). Staff noted that a Children's Cabinet was created by the Legislature in 1992 to coordinate and streamline issues relating to children. She stated that the Social Services Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee also requested the Committee review ages 0-5 of children's services and programs to identify overlapping or areas of duplication.

Responding to questions from the Committee regarding grant money, Ms. Correll verified there is a statute that allows for a tax incentive for employers who make child care available to their employees. Often the incentives are not widely used or publicized.

The Chairperson expressed thanks to Ms. Correll, who will no longer be staffing the Committee, for her expertise, knowledge, and preparedness in her presentations to the Committee.

## **Other Issues**

*The Chairperson asked for a motion and second to approve the minutes of the December 2 and 3, 2004 meeting. The motion was adopted.* The Committee was advised of an adjusted meeting schedule comprised of September 14 and 15, and October 12 and 13. The agenda will be adjusted accordingly. The Committee meeting in September will concentrate on the adoption issue and services for children from 0 to 5. The springboard for the adoption discussion will be the Legislative Post Audit published in February, 2005.

The Chairperson reminded the Committee to bring items of interest to be discussed further and included in the report to the 2006 Legislature. These items can be e-mailed either to Susan Kannarr or Representative DeCastro for compilation.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson.

Prepared by Florence Deeter  
Edited by Susan Kannarr and Robert Waller

Approved by Committee on:

September 15, 2005

(date)