

Minority Report

FY 2012 Kansas Department on Aging

We do not agree with the House Budget Committee's recommendation for the Kansas Department on Aging due to the following concerns:

The Governor recommends \$4,699,248, including \$2,000,000 from the State General Fund, to fund an increase in HCBS/FE caseloads with savings realized in part by reducing the agency's salaries and wages by \$3.0 million, including \$1.2 million from the State General Fund, and 20.0 currently filled FTE positions. Further, the Governor recommends utilization of a waiting list for the program should the recommendation not fully fund the HCBS/FE caseloads.

Instead of accepting the Governor's enhancement recommendation the Budget Committee voted to allow the agency to utilize \$1.2 million from the State General Fund achieved by reducing the agency's FTE and salaries and wages, and then sweeps the remaining \$800,000 to the State General Fund.

We feel that it is unwise to sweep funds realized through further reductions when the Governor and the Budget Committee already accepted the agency's reduced resources that will result in additional agency operations reductions, a reduction for Senior Care Act (SCA) that will eliminate services for 1,140 seniors, and a Nutrition program reduction of 53,286 meals or 240 fewer seniors receiving services.

The following reductions are already part of the Governor's the FY 2012 budget:

- **Reduce Senior Care Act funding** – Reduce \$1,333,949, all from the State General Fund, for Senior Care Act (SCA) direct services, case management, assessments and administration. SCA serves low income seniors who otherwise would spend down their personal funds and would become eligible for Medicaid programs. The reduction would be a 21.2 percent decrease in the State General Fund for this program and would eliminate services for approximately 1,140 seniors and increase the SCA waiting list.
- **Reduce Nutrition Program funding** – Reduce \$300,000, all from the State General Fund, from the Nutrition Program. This would mean a reduction of 53,286 meals or 240 fewer seniors receiving services. In addition, the agency states that smaller meal sites might need to close.
- **Reduce Agency Operations** – Reduce \$345,180, including \$102,304 from the State General Fund, from the agency operations. The agency indicates this reduction will be achieved by negotiating with contractors to reduce fees, delaying replacements of office hardware and reducing salary expenditures through layoffs, furloughs and leaving positions vacant.

Further, we have concerns pertaining to the Governor's recommended elimination of 20.0 currently filled FTE positions in the Department of Aging's operations program. The agency has not indicated which employees will have salary reductions, be furloughed or terminated. The agency operations program includes all administrative functions of the agency and is divided into four organizational units: Office of the Secretary, Administrative Services Commission, Licensure, Certification and Evaluation Commission, and Program and Policy Commission. The Office of the Secretary and the Administrative Services Commission supports

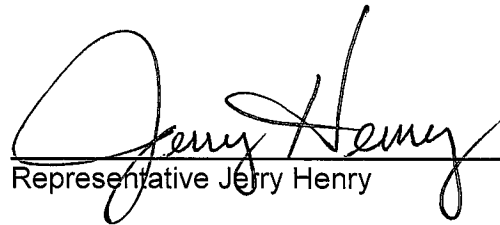
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and provides general administrative functions of the department. The Program and Policy Commission is responsible for the provision of services to Kansas seniors through a privatized network of providers. The primary function of the Licensure, Certification, and Evaluation Commission (LCE) is to protect public health through the inspection and licensing of adult care homes.

We are concerned that since a large number of the agency's FTE positions are for licensure and certification that a majority of the FTE reductions will be surveyors of Kansas nursing facilities. In testimony received by the Budget Committee, it was indicated that 188, or 53.0 percent, of the 351 nursing facilities in Kansas were cited with serious levels of deficiencies in the last year. Elimination of nursing facility surveyors and other agency employees that support inspectors to protect public health at this time would be unwise.


Representative Jerry Henry


Representative Barbara Ballard

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