

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marc Rhoades at 9:07 a.m. on January 26, 2011, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Ballard – excused
- Representative Gatewood – excused
- Representative Sullentrop - excused

Committee staff present:

- Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Shirley Morrow, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Cindy O'Neal, Administrative Assistant, Appropriations Committee
- Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant, Appropriations Committee

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services – Agency Overview
- Attachment 2 Circles of Hope Information and Application

Chairman Rhoades welcomed committee members, and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Representative Rhoades made a motion to introduce proposed legislation regarding the coronor's jurisdiction to transfer bodies to other counties for cremation. The motion was seconded by Representative Crum. Motion carried.

Robert Siedlecki, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), presented an overview of the department, (Attachment 1). He introduced Jeff Kahrs, Chief of Staff, Gary Haulmark, Government Relations Director, and Lois Weeks, Director of Financial Management, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Acting Secretary Siedlecki reviewed agency programs and services, funding sources, and upcoming initiatives that included healthy marriage, adoption and outreach to faith-based community organizations.

Discussion followed by committee members. Acting Secretary Siedlecki reviewed the FY 2012 Governor's budget recommendations which included \$3 million reduction in State General Funds for the Early Head Start Program and placing those dollars into a Child Care fund. As this is developed, additional information will be provided, he noted. The matching federal dollars for FMAP ends on July 1, 2011, which will have an impact on Medicaid programs. He discussed the proposed closure of Kansas Neurological Institute and noted that this recommendation would not effect the quality of service or funding level. A savings of 50% per person would be achieved with this recommendation. The process and timeline for closing KNI was reviewed. He stated that the department will be collaborating with the mental health community to work on a resolution to address community needs. Efforts are also underway to address the needs of the blind and visually impaired throughout the state to provide rehabilitation services, it was noted.

Chairman Rhoades introduced the conferees from the Circles of Hope.

Myrna Krehbiel, Executive Director of Peace Connections and Coordinator for Circles of Hope, provided an overview of the organization, (Attachment 2) She emphasized the importance of teaching people how to fish rather than giving them fish which sustains individuals and communities, and the need for change for people with limited resources. Wanda Humpry discussed the Circle Leader's role in helping to lead people out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. She reviewed resources which included financial, social, spiritual and stisticmic issues. Jerica Hinshaw, Circle Leader, provided testimony on how the Circles of Hope enriched her life. Denise Rhoades discussed her participation with Getting Ahead classes, which is a fifteen week course designed to address poverty issues, barriers in the community and development of individual SMART goals. She added that Circles of Hope brings together social services, families in poverty, faith-based organizations, businesses and government to address poverty at a local and personal

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level. She noted the financial return on investments which included: reduced government assistance; tax revenues from individuals and greater financial stability for individuals and families. Candy Kutz, Circles Leader, discussed how Circles of Hope enriched her life.

Discussion by committee members followed. It was noted by Circles of Hope representatives that funding sources are primarily from grants, individuals, churches and organizations and referrals from Health Ministries, Parents as Teachers, SRS, local employers and school districts within the community. Rules of the class were reviewed.

Shawn Sullivan, Acting Secretary, Department of Agriculture, provided an overview of the department. There were no handouts available to committee members. He stated that the agency administers Medicaid reimbursement to contract service providers, nursing facilities and assisted living facilities. He emphasized the need for partnerships, collaboration and transparency in order to address increased caseloads, budget issues and an enhanced service delivery model.

Acting Secretary Sullivan responded to questions from committee members.

He discussed changes to nursing home facilities that are geared to a more homelike atmosphere rather than an institutional model.

Chairman Rhoades stated that committee minutes for January 12, 13 and 18 have been distributed.

Representative Crum made a motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 13, 18 committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelley. Motion carried.

Chairman reviewed the agenda for Friday's committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Marc Rhoades, Chairman