

Approved: February 10, 2011  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

JANUARY 27, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiegerl at 9 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 142S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jay Hall, Intern, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
June Christensen, Committee Assistant

Others attending: See attached list.

Conferees Appearing before the Committee:

Representative Bill Otto  
Amy Deckard, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Connie Zienkewicz, Executive Director, Families Together, Inc.  
Children's Alliance, Written Testimony

Chairperson Kiegerl introduced Representative Bill Otto, who presented a proposal for the Committee to consider rescinding 2010 HB 2356, known as *Lexi's Law*, that was passed by the Legislature last year. There was no objection to the Committee accepting the bill, and Chairperson Kiegerl said he would work with the vice chairman and ranking member for consideration of rescinding the bill.

Chairman Kiegerl introduced Connie Zienkewicz, Executive Director for Families, Inc., for testimony ([Attachment 1](#)). She informed the Committee that Families Together (CFT) assists families how to be effective advocates for children with disabilities and special health care needs. CFT also has contracts with the Kansas Department of Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) that also assists the families. She and her husband have a daughter, now 25, who has received services with the Home and Community-Based Services Developmental Disabilities (HCBS DD) waiver since the age of 8, which includes at-home day care so that both parents can work. The waiting list for services is very long, and as parents are aging and no longer able to care for their children, more services will be required. The main concerns are emphasis on employment, support of families, stress reduction, better quality of marriage, and fewer instances of child abuse.

She answered questions regarding SRS data and special services. Chairperson Kiegerl said hearings will be held on autism education, and, hopefully, 2010 HB 2227 will allow continuity within the school districts regarding education.

Amy Deckard, Senior Fiscal Analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department, explained about the flow of tobacco settlement dollars into state funding for children's initiatives. These dollars were a result of a 1998 settlement to drop pending lawsuits with the tobacco companies.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Room 142S, Statehouse, 9 a.m., January 27, 2011

She presented data (Attachment 2), for the FY 2010-2012 Children's Initiatives Fund and explained the various changes taking place with the Governor's proposed budget, new programs, and those being eliminated. The revenue from the settlement has been declining (from \$72.3 million in 2009 to \$60.8 million in 2010) due to less profit for the tobacco companies and dollars going to the escrow accounts of disputed lawsuits.

Written testimony from Bruce Linhos, Executive Director of Children's Alliance, (Attachment 3), was distributed.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at 9 a.m., Room 142S, and will cover issues regarding problems with autism services. The meeting on Thursday, February 3, will address seclusion and restraint of autistic children in the educational system..

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.