

Approved: March 15, 2012

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 1:30 p.m. on March 8, 2012 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Renae 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:

Mitzi McFatrigh, KS Advocates 4 Better Care
Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending:

See attached list.

The meeting was opened by re-opening the hearing on **HB 2631—dental care availability and access.**

Mitzi McFatrigh, representing Kansas Advocates 4 Better Care (KABC), stated that the KABC supported any effort to improve access to dental care for elders. Oral health is central to a person's overall general health but is often overlooked. She reminded the committee that creation of this new permit level or expanding the scope of practice with the Registered Dental Practitioner does seniors no good if Medicaid doesn't cover dental coverage for adults (Attachment #1).

Also submitting written testimony in favor of **HB 2631** was:

Dr. Katherine Weno, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Attachment #2)
Rachel Monger, Leading Age (Attachment #3)
Tanya Dorf-Brunner, Oral Health Kansas (Attachment #4)
Suzanne Wickle, Kansas Dental Project (Attachment #5)
Ron Gaches, Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association (Attachment #6)

There being no further testimony, the hearing on **HB 2631** was closed.

The Chair then opened the hearing on **HB 2416—transfer of powers and duties of Kansas health policy authority.** Staff reported that this legislation would update statutes to correct references after Executive Reorganization Order 38 moved the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) into the Division of Health Care Finance within the Department of Health and Environment. The bill would also repeal the statutes that created KHPA.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 8, 2012, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, stated that the main goal of all involved was to create a transition that would minimize disruption to the clients and providers in the Medicaid program, while allowing the agency to realize targeted reductions in expenditures and staffing. Their first actions were to consolidate management and central service activities such as fiscal, legal, information technology, and human resource services. Over the course of FY 2012 they are continuing to blend the cultures of the two agencies. He stated that the end consumers of Medicaid services have been well-served and that the consolidation has been a non-event to those outside of the agency (Attachment #7).

The Committee was also provided with a copy of the “Report of the Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight to the 2012 Kansas Legislature” (Attachment #8).

There being no questions from the Committee, the hearing on **HB 2416** was closed.

The chair asked for approval of the minutes for February 21, February 29, and March 1, 2012. *It was moved by Senator Kelsey, seconded by Senator Steineger that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.*

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 13, 2012.