

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Morris at 11:25 a.m. on February 25, 2004, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Analyst
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joyce Cussimano, Kansas Children's Cabinet
Angela Ware, PhD, Cosmos Corporation, Bethesda, Maryland
Melissa Ness, Family Preservation Collaborative and Kansas Children's Cabinet
Dale Brunton, Director, Division of Accounts and Reports, Kansas Department of Administration

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Bill Introduction

Senator Downey moved, with a second by Senator Helgerson, to introduce a bill concerning the membership of the health care data governing board (3rs1481). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris welcomed Joyce Cussimano, Kansas Children's Cabinet, who welcomed Angela Ware, Ph.D, of the COSMOS Corporation, Bethesda, Maryland. Ms. Cussimano explained that Smart Start is an outcomes-based program. She noted that Smart Start allows communities, through their collaborative efforts, have the flexibility to do what they want and need to do in their communities. At the same time, Smart Start provides focus through its five core service areas. Ms. Ware is the project director of the evaluation of Smart Start.

Ms. Ware distributed copies of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Smart Start Kansas Initiative, State Evaluation Progress Report (Attachment 1). She explained the five core service areas of Smart Start Kansas:

1. Quality of early childhood education;
2. Availability of early childhood education;
3. Affordability of early childhood education;
4. Child health; and
5. Family support

In her testimony, Ms. Ware indicated the following that makes Smart Start a unique initiative:

- Outcomes based and research driven
- Grounded in local collaboration
- Community specific

Committee questions and discussion followed regarding seeing verifiable outcomes and the funding of

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE at 11:25 a.m. on February 25, 2004, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

children's programs. There was discussion regarding the reassurance that Smart Start is based on best practices developed in situations in which the research from those best practices has demonstrated that these kinds of interventions and interactions, by exposure to this kind of program, does move the barometer whether children will get better from having had these interactions. The need for better-developed professionals and people that will stay long-term with these children was also discussed.

Chairman Morris recognized Melissa Ness, Family Preservation Collaborative and Kansas Children's Cabinet, who mentioned that the discussion today was driving toward clarity of expectations about what Smart Start is and what it is not. She noted that they have the same sense of urgency of what can be done to produce the impact on children in the classroom. Ms. Ness explained that the difference in Smart Start is that it is a multi-faceted program approach and they are learning about what works and what does not work. She noted that Smart Start is a very focused program. Ms. Ness addressed the fact that this outcomes-based, very focused approach, can and will have an impact on children. She mentioned that they feel they are building a replicable model so that those outside of the Smart Start programs will begin to use some of this same collaborative effort. She explained that they want to be accountable with the State's investment and that is why they have invested so much time and effort in bringing Ms. Ware to address the questions. (No written testimony was submitted.)

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

HB 2669--Setoff collection assistance fee

HB 2670--Accounts and reports fiscal reporting

Staff briefed the committee on the two bills.

Chairman Morris welcomed Dale Brunton, Director, Division of Accounts and Reports, Kansas Department of Administration. Mr. Brunton explained that **HB 2669** amends statutes related to the Accounts Receivable Setoff Program (Attachment 2). He mentioned that there are three substantive amendments as described in his written testimony. Mr. Brunton explained that **HB 2670** formalizes efficiency measures already in place within state government regarding statewide financial reporting, petty cash and imprest funds, and municipal reporting.

Mr. Brunton offered a technical amendment on **HB 2669** for the Committee's consideration (Attachment 3).

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **HB 2669** and **HB 2670**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2004.