

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 p.m. on January 21, 2009, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

Committee members: All members were present except: Representatives: Ward, Finney, and Schwab, all of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Janet Grace, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Secretary Don Jordan, Department Of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Secretary Kathy Greenlee, Kansas Dept. On Aging

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Landwehr called the meeting to order. The Chair explained she asked the different agencies that work with this community to present what their agencies do, don't do, expectations for 2009 and for the committee to ask them questions. This will help the representative's respond to bills and with calls from constituents. The agencies will be presenting this week and next week.

Secretary Don Jordan, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, briefed the Committee on SRS. (Attachment 1). Their mission is to protect children and promote adult self-sufficiency. This is done through partnering to connect Kansans with supports and services to improve lives. This is one of the most important and controversial programs provided by government. The vast majority of their budget (89.1%) is spent on direct assistance programs serving individuals. The agency is spending their dollars more effectively and efficiently. (Attachments 1, 3). There is a discrepancy with one of the charts. The agency will correct the chart. They will also provide information on how much is spent on addiction vs. prevention programs.

Services and Purposes of the Agency (Attachment 1)

- Addiction and Prevention Services
- Mental Health Services
- State mental Health Hospitals
- Community Supports and Services
- Private/Public Intermediate Care Facilities
- Children and Family Services
- Economic and Employment Support
- Rehabilitation Services
- Child Support Enforcement

The agency used to have a waiting list for their services. The list has been eliminated. Secretary Jordan responded to the request of explaining the difference between Medicaid and MediKan. Medicaid is the federally funded program for lower income people. MediKan is state funded and is mainly for single adults waiting for assistance in other programs. MediKAN is evenly distributed across the state. The agency receives some of the MediKan funds back from the federal government.

Secretary Jordan responded to the question of what to say or do when constituents call about having their children removed from their home. There is a belief that SRS removes children from homes. Secretary Jordan placed emphasis on the fact that SRS does not remove children from homes. The agency also does not make money by removing children. The federal government does not provide funds for child removal. SRS makes recommendations to the appropriate authorities.

Secretary Jordan responded to a question about constituents having their food stamps decrease due to an increase in social security. The interaction between their income and amount they pay for housing, utilities, and medical care determines the allocation of food stamps. If other expenses stay the same and income goes

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up, then there will be a reduction in their food stamp allocation. The reverse is also true. If their expenses increase and income stayed the same, their food stamp allocation would increase. It is a formula and set by federal guidelines.

A summary of expenditures and persons served is included in ([Attachment 1](#)).

Mr. Jordan listed the 2009 SRS Legislature Proposals in ([Attachments 1, 2](#)). These three legislative proposals are required for three of the SRS FY 2010 budget reductions:

- Grandparents as Caregivers Program
- No Removal into SRS custody for youth 16 and older for non-abuse/neglect reasons
- Secretary's custody ends at age 18
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An acronym list was provided in ([Attachment 4](#)).

Secretary Kathy Greenlee briefed the Committee on the Kansas Department on Aging ([Attachment 1](#)). She also will provide the committee with an acronym list. The organizational structure and description of agency responsibilities was reviewed. She will provide phone numbers at a later date. Introduction of the members was provided.

Ms. Greenlee discussed KDOA's regulatory responsibilities, purchasing responsibilities, advocacy, initiatives, and possible legislation ([Attachment 4](#)). The following is concerning the KDOA's budget recommendations:

Impact of the Governor's 2009 Budget Recommendations ([Attachment 4](#))

- 75% of the KDOA's budget is for nursing home caseload
- FY 2009 a 2% reduction

Fiscal Year 2010 Governor's Recommendations ([Attachment 4](#))

- Nursing home rate freeze
- Reduction in Senior Care Act
- Suspend core funding for the Area Agencies on Aging

The agency is responsible for surveys. The survey includes the core of the quality of health care in nursing care facility, to the environment, nutrition provided, number of bedridden residents, talk with family members about care, the residents in the facility and the workers. A document is sent to the facility based on this information, so that the facility has an opportunity to correct its deficiencies. The longer nursing facilities delay correcting the deficiencies, the more severe the fines from KDOA.

SRS and KDOA request computer compability between the agencies to better serve the constituents.

Secretary Greenlee discussed the questions concerning the Seniors Farmers Market program. It was not managed well and was inefficient. The agency did not apply for the program this year. It is a program that is needed and wanted but it needs to be fixed first.

Secretary Greenlee said that the agency will not be bringing much legislation to the legislature this year.

Bill introduction: Representative. Siegfroid announced that he will draft and submit a bill next week.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 02:00 p.m.