

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on March 7, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
 Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
 Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
 JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Shelby Smith, representing the Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
A. Elizabeth Cauble, PhD, social work professor, University of Kansas
Ann Weick, Dean, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
Carol Ramirez Albott, social work representative on the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Mark Kaufman, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Washburn University
Nancie Palmer, PhD., Chair, Department of Social Work, Washburn University
Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Ron Hein, representing Mental Health Credentialing Coalition

Others attending: See attached list

Introduction

The Chair introduced Gordon Hibbard, Chairman of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, who expressed appreciation to Phyllis Gilmore and her staff at BSRB for their dedication in providing better services to licensees of the Board.

Hearing on SB 626 -Board of social work established

Shelby Smith, representing the Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, testified before the Committee in support of **SB 626** which would create a new state agency called the Board of Social Work. The bill provides for the power and duties overseeing the licensure of social workers and the related funding to be transferred from the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board to the Board of Social Work in FY 2001. Mr. Smith noted that the request for a separate Board for social workers was not a turf battle, not a scope of practice issue, but would be in the best interest in protecting the public as outlined in his written testimony. (Attachment 1)

Other conferees appearing before the Committee and expressing their support for **SB 626** included:

A. Elizabeth Cauble, PhD, social work professor, University of Kansas, who noted that the focus of the eleven-member BSRB was on issues related to the practice of traditional mental health, and that the representation on the Board was disproportional to the number of social work licensees, (Attachment 2); Ann Weick, Dean, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, felt that the establishment of an independent board is a proposal designed to correct the current imbalance and that it would make possible for social work representatives and a public member to focus exclusively on regulatory issues facing social work, (Attachment 3); Carol Ramirez Albott, social work representative on the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, noted one area of concern she had was that the Board chose to ignore the recommendations of the social work representatives regarding social work applications, (Attachment 4); Mark Kaufman, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Washburn University, pointed out that the proposed legislation is based upon the "Model State Social Work Practice Act" prepared in 1997 by the American Association of State Social Work Boards, (Attachment 5); Nancie Palmer, PhD., Chair, Department of Social Work, Washburn University, felt that the creation of an independent regulatory structure composed primarily of social work practitioners at all levels with the inclusion of public participation would be in keeping with the best practice, policy and protection of citizens of Kansas, (Attachment 6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Room 526-S, Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m. on March 7, 2000.

Written testimony in support of **SB 626** was also provided by Marilyn Page, PhD, Kansas Public Health Association, Inc. (Attachment 7) and Margaret A. Presley, ACSW, Associate Professor, Bethany College Social Work Program, (Attachment 8).

Speaking in opposition to the bill was Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, who stated that the Board feels the interdisciplinary board is a good model because it is efficient and has made progressive changes over the past few months as evidenced in the 100% change of staff. Ms. Gilmore noted that they believe a common ground can be found on every issue, and that the public is best served by the checks and balances and give and take of the present system than by the creation of another bureaucracy. She further noted that the Board has a working meeting scheduled in April with the SRS chiefs from the entire state for the purpose of developing and enhancing a working policy between the BSRB and SRS. (Attachment 9)

Also speaking in opposition to **SB 626** was Ron Hein, representing the Mental Health Credentialing Coalition. Mr. Hein noted that while opposing the development of a brand new board for social workers, the MHCC and its members are fully aware that there are some complaints which social workers have had in regard to past practices of the BSRB and its staff. Some of those concerns have been addressed and solved by changes in the board membership and changes in the staff. He also pointed out that the new board and staff have solved problems and have eliminated inefficiencies which have occurred in the previous administration of the BSRB. (Attachment 10)

The Committee discussed what complaint and problem issues the BSRB handles and whether there is a fiscal note of the bill.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2000.