

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 3:30 P.M. on March, March 19, 2007 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Dick, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cindy Luxem - CEO/President, Kansas Health Care Association
Mary Sloan, Kansas Association of Homes & Services for the Aging
Kathy Greenlee, Department of Aging

Others attending:

See attached list.

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by the Chair.

Hearing opened on HB 2144 - Nursing facility reimbursement rates, rolling base year.

Amy Deckard gave an overview to the Committee explaining the bill will be a rolling base set annually using the three most current years.

Cindy Luxem, Kansas Health Care Association testified in support of **HB 2144**, stating that before 2006, reimbursement rates to providers had not been adjust for six years. Kansas Medicaid payment rates for nursing facilities fell short of covering the costs of providing care in 2003 by an average of \$13.13 per patient day of care, and has fell short even more each year since. (Attachment 1)

Mary Sloan, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, replaced Debra Zehr, reading her testimony in support of **HB 2144**. Ms. Sloan pointed out that Medicaid provides the public safety not our poorest, most frail elderly who reside in Kansas nursing homes. Medicaid pays for cost to 50% of KAHSA nursing home residents' care. She also indicated that the primary cost drivers in Kansas nursing facilities are linked to direct care staffing ro are largely out of provider control. (Attachment 2)

Kathy Greenlee, Secretary, Department of Aging, talked as neutral regarding **HB 2144**. (Attachment 3)

Written Only testimony in support of **HB 2144** was presented by James Krehbiel, CEO of Schowalter Villa. (Attachment 4), also, from Steve Albrecht, Regional Director of Government Relations for Golden Ventures. (Attachment 5)

Hearing on HB 2144 was closed.

Hearing opened on SB 355 - Repealing sunset on Kansas Foster Child Education Assistance Act.

Susan Kannarr briefed the Committee on **SB 355** explaining the difference between **HB 2546**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Social Services Budget Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March, March 19, 2007 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Bethell called attention to the written only testimonies in support of **SB 355** from:

Candy Shively , SRS. (Attachment 6)
Bruce Linhos, Children's Alliance (Attachment 7)
Kansas Board of Regency (Attachment 8)

The Chairman closed the hearing on SB 355.

Meeting was adjourned.