

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:05 a.m. on March 20, 2001, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
Rae Anne Davis, Legislative Research
Amy Kramer, Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See Attached

Representative Neufeld moved for the introduction of legislation regarding biosecurity agreements of livestock facilities. Motion was seconded by Representative Spangler. Motion carried.

Representative Nichols moved for the introduction of legislation regarding setting up significant pay raises for law enforcement. Motion was seconded by Representative Hermes. Motion carried.

Representative Spangler moved for the introduction of legislation regarding the retirement system for state judges. Motion was seconded by Representative Hermes. Motion carried.

Staff distributed copies of the Recommended Expenditures by Function of Government for FY 2001 reflecting Committee action as of March 16, 2001 (Attachment 1).

Representative Ballard presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 with the noted exceptions and comments (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed at length Item 4 of the Budget Committee comments on Page 4 regarding shrinkage rates. It was noted that there are 428 FTE's allocated for Administration and 362.9 persons are employed in Administration of SRS. Many agencies hold the higher paying positions open longer in order to manipulate the shrinkage rates. It was pointed out that the Field Operations and Integrated Service Delivery positions are the most difficult to fill and it is necessary to have the flexibility to have positions available to allow for the hiring of social workers, case workers, and intake officers, depending upon the need of the field office. Also pointed out to the Committee was the increased number of persons who are applying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and food stamps which leads to the need for hiring staff where and when required.

In response to questions regarding the Payment Center, the State will begin drawing interest on bank deposits which have not been dispersed instead of Tier, Inc., according to information from SRS. Problems within Tier are being addressed and a report is due to the SRS Oversight Committee this summer. The problem in late payments to recipients appears to be checks that are improperly identified so instructional materials are being developed for check depositors.

Representative Neufeld, Chairman of the Social Services Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for FY 2002 with the noted exceptions and comments (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Ballard.

Representative Bethell made a substitute motion to amend the Budget Committee report to request that the SRS Oversight Committee prepare a report regarding their attempt or success at moving all HCBS waiver programs into one program to be presented to the Legislature in September or October prior to the 2002

session. Motion was seconded by Representative Neufeld. Motion carried.

Representative Shriver moved to amend the Budget Committee report regarding Item 2 under Children and Family Policy on Page 18, making the \$212,000 funding contingent upon receiving a donation of \$100,000 from the Sunflower Foundation. Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion failed.

Representative Campbell moved to amend the Budget Committee report to delete Item 9 of Children and Family Policy, Page 20, until it is determined if the Juvenile Justice Authority or SRS will be required to pay for emergency shelter costs for law enforcement placements as at least one-third of the children determined to be non-offenders are reportedly to be in SRS custody. Motion was seconded by Representative Spangler.

Representative Feuerborn made a substitute motion to amend the Budget Committee report to strike the language in Item 9 of Children and Family Policy, Page 20, regarding funding by the Juvenile Justice Authority for emergency shelter for law enforcement placements. Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion failed.

The Committee discussed the need for emergency shelters for children who are picked up by law enforcement and need care before intake and assessment. It was noted that decreasing the funding to the community partners who provide this service would be unfair and probably lead to their declining to provide this service. Currently the average cost is \$105 per day with reimbursement rates being in the \$72 a day range. Robbing the Juvenile Justice Authority budget for the emergency care would cause a strain on their already very limited resources. The Governor has recommended a \$7 million cut in their budget for FY 2002.

Representative Campbell withdrew his motion. Representative Spangler withdrew his second.

Representative Nichols moved to conceptually amend the Budget Committee report by making Item 9 of Children and Family Policy, Page 20, contingent upon striking the language regarding funding from the Juvenile Justice Authority budget for emergency shelter for law enforcement placements and instructing SRS to find the balance of \$92,349 from existing resources in their budget. Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representative Spangler moved to conceptually amend the Budget Committee report in Item 7 of the Health Care Policy section, Pages 15 and 16, to reflect full funding in the amount of \$2 million from the State General Fund for Home and Community Based Services for Head Injury waivers due to the long wait by at least 100 individuals here in Kansas. Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion failed.

Budget Committee members pointed out that the head injury waiver along with many other waivers is being addressed in Item 10 in which SRS and the Department on Aging have been directed to review the changes needed in the State Medicaid Plan to combine all existing HCBS waiver programs into a single waiver.

Representative Nichols moved to conceptually amend the Budget Committee Report in Item 3 of the Health Care Policy section on Page 14, by instructing SRS to work on a plan to decertify beds in nursing homes for mental health clients and work with community providers in the development of a plan which is to be reported to the SRS Oversight Committee. Motion was seconded by Representative Hermes. Motion carried.

Representative Spangler moved to amend the Budget Committee Report by removing 100 FTE's from the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services. Motion was seconded by Representative Toplikar. Motion failed.

Representative Klein moved to delete Item 1 from the Integrated Service Delivery section on Page 11. Motion was seconded by Representative Shriver. Motion failed.

Representative Neufeld moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Social Rehabilitation Services for FY 2002 as amended and with the noted exceptions and comments (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2001.