

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Daniel Hawkins at 1:30pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Jennifer Ouellette, Legislative Research Department  
Patrick Orr, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Erica Haas, Legislative Research Department  
Norm Furse, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sam Allred, Via Christi HOPE PACE Program  
Karen Weichert, CEO Midland Care Connection, Inc.  
Chris Scott, Bluestem PACE  
Joe Ewert, Commissioner of Survey Certification & Credentialing for KDADS  
Aaron Dunkel, Deputy Secretary, KDHE

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Hearing on: SB142 — Kansas department for aging and disability services; programs for all-inclusive care for the elderly.**

Chairman Hawkins opened the hearing on **SB142**. Scott Abbott, staff revisor, gave an overview of this bill.

Karren Weichert, CEO Midland Care Connection, Inc., testified in support of this bill. The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides healthcare solutions that allows frail, nursing home eligible individuals to remain in their homes. PACE enables individuals who are 55 and older to live independently in the community with supportive services as an alternative to institutional care. More and more individuals and caregivers are seeking this alternative to traditional nursing home environments because most people share the desire to be in their own home for as long as possible. At the heart of the care module is the PACE center. This center is highly regulated by Medicaid and or Medicare and must undergo surveys or inspections by several state agencies including KDADS and KDHE. Passing this bill will help reduce the administrative burden for PACE programs as well as the state in terms of additional required surveys. She then stood for questions from the committee. [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

Sam Allred, a representative from Via Christi HOPE PACE programs from Wichita, Kansas testified in favor of this bill. Essentially, **SB142** excludes PACE programs from Adult Day Care statutory definitions because these sites are already subject to Medicare and state surveys making this process redundant. He stood for questions from the committee. [\(Attachment 2\)](#)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Health and Human Services at 1:30pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 546-S of the Capitol.

Chris Scott from Bluestem Communities described the need for PACE services in rural Kansas. He described how PACE benefits elderly who without this service would be very isolated without it. [\(Attachment 3\)](#)

Joe Ewert, Commissioner of Survey Certification and Credentialing Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) testified that passage of this bill would reduce duplications in the inspection process governing PACE sites because they are already highly regulated. He then stood for questions from the committee. [\(Attachment 4\)](#)

Rachel Monger, Director of Government Affairs, Leading Age Kansas provided written testimony. [\(Attachment 5\)](#)

Chairman Hawkins closed the hearing on **SB142** because there were no other parties to testify concerning this bill.

### **Hearing on: SB180 — Health maintenance organizations and medicare provider organizations; privilege fees.**

Chairman Hawkins opened the hearing on **SB180**. Norm Furse, staff revisor, gave an overview of the bill.

Chairman Hawkins opened the hearing to proponents. Aaron Dunkel, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) testified that the bill would increase the privilege fee for health maintenance organizations in Kansas from 1.0% to 5.5%. These funds will be placed in the medical assistance fee fund and used to pay costs associated with Medicaid medical assistance payments. He then stood for questions from the committee. [\(Attachment 6\)](#)

Chairman Hawkins closed the hearing on **SB180**.

### **Possible action on bills previously heard**

*Chairman Hawkins called for final action on **HB2376-Emergency Medical Services Board ability to impose fines.***

Norm Furse, staff revisor, gave overview of the bill.

*Representative Ward moved the committee pass **HB2376** out favorably. Representative Osterman seconded. Representative Ward proposed an amendment to the bill that would require the Emergency Medical Services board to send its annual report on the number, amount, and reasons for fines to the house health and human services and senate public health and welfare committees instead of the federal and state affairs committee. Representative Houston seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried. [\(Attachment 7\)](#)*

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Representative Ward moved the committee pass out **HB2376** as amended favorable for passage. Representative Osterman seconded and bill passed out favorably as amended.

Chairman Hawkins called for final action on **HB2387-Emergency medical services amendments**.

Scott Abbott, staff revisor, gave overview of the bill.

Representative Wilson moved the committee pass out **HB2387** favorably. Representative Dick Jones seconded and motion carried.

Chairman Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 2:32 pm.