

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Donovan at 9:30 am on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kelli Ludlum, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services (KDADS)
Colin Thomasset, Associate Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc. (CMHCs)
Amy Campbell, Kansas Mental Health Coalition (KMHC)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

There were no bill introductions.

Hearing on: SB447 — Kansas behavioral health programs checkoff.

Chairperson Donovan opened the hearing on **SB447**.

Kelli Ludlum appeared in support of **SB447** stating that this legislation would provide taxpayers an opportunity to voluntarily donate to substance use prevention, mental health awareness and stigma reduction efforts administered by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) checkoff fund to support Kansas behavioral health programs. ([Attachment 1](#)) She said that KDADS does not currently have any state funding allocated for suicide prevention.

Colin Thomasset testified in support of **SB447** because by creating a tax checkoff it would enable Kansans to easily contribute money to behavioral health programs. ([Attachment 2](#)) He is concerned that money would not go towards treatment of behavioral health issues.

Chairperson Donovan said that since all parties testifying in the hearing today are proponents he suggested they get together and prepare an amendment to **SB447**

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Assessment and Taxation at 9:30 am on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

Amy Campbell spoke in support of **SB447** noting that this bill won't solve all the challenges for mental health and substance use treatment in Kansas but it could add another tool to the toolbox. ([Attachment 3](#)) She said that individuals and communities pay the price when there is no treatment of persons with mental illness. Ms. Campbell said that people are all too often caught in an unending cycle of repeated hospitalizations or incarcerations and the costs are more than fiscal; they include broken families, broken people and the loss of life itself.

Ms. Ludlow responded to questions from the Committee regarding how much this checkoff would bring in.

Richard Carlson, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) will respond to questions regarding the number of checkoffs currently on the tax form and the amount of revenue received.

Chairperson Donovan closed the hearing on **SB447**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Chairperson Donovan said the next meeting will be Thursday, March 17 with discussion and possible action on **SB316 - Property tax lid, effective date, exemptions.**