

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Pilcher-Cook at 1:39pm on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department  
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department  
Kyle Hamilton, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mark Dugan presenting for Andrew C. Brown, Senior Fellow, Foundation for Government Accountability Action (FGA)  
Kevin J. Robertson, CAE, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association (KDA)  
Colin Thomasset, Associate Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) of Kansas, Inc.  
Charles (Chip) L. Wheelen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Care Stabilization Fund (HCSF)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Hearing on: SB402 — Charitable healthcare providers; continuing education credits for gratuitous care of eligible patients.**

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the hearing on **SB402**. Scott Abbott, staff revisor, presented a briefing of the bill. Mr. Scott distributed a balloon amendment, and explained the changes. After questions by the Committee were addressed, the hearing continued. ([Attachment 1](#))

Mark Dugan, FGA Action, representing Andrew Brown, Senior Fellow, FGA Action, testified in support of **SB402**. Mr. Dugan indicated that this bill has been modeled from a program in Florida that has been demonstrated to work, and has provided a lot of good opportunities to provide charitable care at very minimal to no cost to the state. Mr. Dugan stated that the Florida program provides liability protections and it provides Continuing Education Credits for health professionals. Mr. Dugan indicated that they believe this bill will provide another powerful incentive for health professionals to provide charitable care. ([Attachment 2](#))

Kevin Robertson, KDA, testified in support of **SB402** with the addition of dentists in the amendment that was outlined by the revisor. Mr. Robertson stated that they think it's a good idea that this is being

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare at 1:39pm on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 in Room 118-N of the Capitol.

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linked to the Kansas Charitable Healthcare Provider Act. Mr. Robertson's testimony indicated that the KDA believes that incentives for healthcare providers to provide care to underserved populations can promote increased care. ([Attachment 3](#))

Colin Thomasset, Association of CMHCs of Kansas, Inc., testified in support of **SB402**. Mr. Thomasset indicated that they like the concept of what is being proposed which would allow for Continuing Education Credit by performing gratuitous services. Mr. Thomasset stated that they know this will be of benefit to both the providers and the patients. Mr. Thomasset indicated that they have requested an amendment to the bill to include Community Mental Health Centers that was explained by the revisor. ([Attachment 4](#))

Chip Wheelen, HCSF, testified as a neutral conferee of **SB402**. Mr. Wheelen provided a few recommendations that he believed would improve the bill, and take advantage of the opportunity to clarify the Kansas Tort Claims Act. Mr. Wheelen described the recommended amendments which were included in his written testimony. ([Attachment 5](#))

Written neutral testimony for **SB402** was submitted by:

Kathleen Selzler Lippert, JD Executive Director, Kansas State Board of Healing Arts ([Attachment 6](#))

Rachelle Colombo, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society (KMS) ([Attachment 7](#))

Questions were addressed by Chip Wheelen; John Monroe, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE); Kathleen Selzler Lippert; and Kevin Robertson. Due to questions that needed more research from KDHE, Chairperson Pilcher-Cook announced that the hearing would remain open to accommodate KDHE to return to respond to questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2016.