

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OVERVIEW

July 1, 1975

SRS Training Center, Topeka, Kansas

Members Present

Representative Richard L. Harper, Chairman  
Senator John F. Vermillion, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Jim Parrish  
Representative James Holderman

Staff Present

Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department  
Alden Shields, Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes' Office

The Committee attended a public hearing on Title XX and proposed rules and regulations held by the State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. The hearing was called to order by Robert Harder, Director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The first part of the meeting was a general discussion of Title XX and the proposed state plan for social services (Attachment A)\*. Written statements were presented by the League of Kansas Municipalities, the Mayor of Topeka and the Mayor of Kansas City.

Points made in the question and answer period were:

Title XX provides for direct services (services provided directly by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services) and purchased services (services for which bids are received and contracts awarded). Any group may submit bids, but at least in some areas of service, (such as homemaker services) the Department will be especially interested in statewide bids in order to keep administrative costs to a minimum.

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\* Attachments were distributed to the Committee at the July 23 meeting.

State and local monies also go into Title XX programs. About 1/2 of the money is committed to contract agencies for 1975.

There are some areas relative to programs, such as "Meals on Wheels" which are not yet clear as to eligibility for funding. It is hoped that if the right terminology is developed funding will be available through Title XX.

The purchase of advocacy services is a gray area in relation to qualifying for funding.

Child care for young children is available for a working mother but is not available during the time she is looking for work or going for interviews. In the area of child care, if matching money is not available to provide a program SRS will continue to purchase services for children now included.

SRS is in contact with the Upjohn Company which has expressed interest in a statewide contract for homemaker services. The object of a statewide contract is to get a better usage of money. However, there is also a possibility of developing county or areawide contracts. A number of questions in this area indicated concern over what would happen to existing programs and the expertise which had been developed at the local level. It was pointed out that even with a statewide contract, programs would have to be developed locally to meet local needs.

In response to a question, it was noted that the local health departments could contract to provide homemaker services if they wish to get into "chore" services. However, if the primary purpose of such service is health then it cannot be funded under Title XX.

Funding for educational programs for young children other than day care centers is not available under Title XX.

Title XX money cannot be used to duplicate education services which are now available in the community. Training for foster parents could be purchased.

It is difficult to pay a medical provider for social services. Whether or not such payments are allowable depends on to whom SRS makes the payment. For example, SRS could give funds to a qualifying local group who could then purchase the services they need from a medical source.

All services are designed to serve anyone who is eligible. Services become available to eligible persons who have specific problems such as alcoholism rather than determining eligibility in terms of the particular problem which the individual has.

The intent of SRS is to spend money from Title XX for services for people rather than for planning or other activities.

### Alcoholism Programs

"Rules and Regulations Covering Alcoholism Treatment Facilities" were distributed. (Attachment B)

Points made in the question and answer period were:

There is a need for certification of alcoholism counselors.

It was suggested that crisis intervention be called something else since much crisis intervention in this area is being provided on an outpatient basis.

It was hoped that treatment in mental health center programs would be eligible for funding under this program.

### Drug Abuse

"Kansas Drug Abuse Commission Manual No. 2" was distributed. (Attachment C and C1)

In the question and answer period the following points were made:

The word councils refers to community drug abuse councils which are essentially volunteer groups.

The commission system will be retained but the Commission will become advisory only. The members will review all applications and will do the initial work in developing regulations and guidelines. Wherever KDAC appears in the presentation (Attachment C and C1) it will be SRS after July 1, 1975.

### Licensing of Social Workers

"Article 18 - Licensing of Social Work Personnel" was distributed. (Attachment D)

The following points were made in the question and answer period:

The law applies only to those holding themselves forth as professional social workers.

The law states that hospitals are exempt but it does not exempt social workers working in the hospital. To exempt these social workers, the law would have to be changed. The level at which a social worker is licensed indicates to the public the level of training and experience. It does not necessarily make a difference in the services performed. It does make a difference for those in private practice.

## Nursing Homes

"Article 10 - Nursing Home Program of the Kansas Medical Assistance Program (Title XIX)" was distributed. (Attachment E)

In the question and answer period the following points were made:

30-10-2 is basically an upgrading of regulations to comply with federal regulations. In a few instances there are major changes necessitated by federal regulations.

Records are required to be submitted so they can be audited to verify cost.

It was emphasized that families should be notified of any medications the patient is being given and what these medications are for.

The only facilities which can file projected costs for the first year are new facilities. Dr. Harder stated he would be willing to look into this matter further since considerable change is being required for some existing facilities, especially those serving the mentally retarded.

Nursing homes will be paid on a percentile basis this year. However, if adequate money is available in the future changes may be made in the payment system.

Federal regulations state that patients must be paid for any work which they do. If costs increase because of this, these costs are not allowable since the expense has not been reported on an historical basis. This is true of this type of change even though it is required by federal or state regulation. A cut off must be established at some point and the historical basis is the one used.

The Kansas Nursing Home Association presented a written statement.

## Public Assistance

"Public Assistance Program" and "Proposed Revisions of the Public Assistance Program" were distributed. (Attachments F and G)

It was noted that the material presented is a complete modification of the existing Public Assistance regulations. Most changes are to clarify existing policies. Other changes are being made to conform with federal regulations or to delete conflicting regulations.

A public announcement was made that a group has filed suit to enjoin the public hearing because it felt sufficient time had not been given for people to acquaint themselves with the material being discussed.

In the question and answer period major areas of concern seemed to be: use of social security numbers; pressure to locate the father of a child (referred to by one person as "bounty hunting"); need for child caring services while looking for employment; better dissemination of information regarding emergency services available and eligibility for them; need to include legal guardians who are not relatives of children, especially under emergency services; release of confidential information; potential resources should not be considered in determining eligibility or a grant to the client until that resource becomes available to him, i.e. life insurance; availability of SRS branch offices; food stamp program (cost and mix-up in mailing stamps); need for educational programs for young children whose mother is not working and for handicapped children - at least providing for access to programs which already exist; better communication between the SRS office and the Governor's office.

Other material distributed was: "Proposed Regulations for the Development of 'Specialized Instruction' as called for in H.B. 2040" by the Kansas Association for Retarded Citizens (Attachment H); "Article 25 - Youth Center at Atchison, Beloit, Topeka, Iarned Youth Rehabilitation Center and Osawatomie Youth Rehabilitation Center" (Attachment I); "Article 7 - Complaints, Appeals and Fair Hearings" (Attachment J); and "Article 13 - Licensing of Vending Stands" (Attachment K). No significant issues seemed to be raised in these areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by Emalene Correll

Approved by Committee on:

8/12/75  
date