

Approved: 4-28-95  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Praeger at 1:00 p.m. on April 27, 1995 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department  
Jo Ann Buntten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
State Senator Tim Emert  
State Representative Rochelle R. Chronister

Others attending: See attached list

**Confirmation Hearing on Rochelle R. Chronister, Secretary, Social and Rehabilitation Services**

Senator Tim Emert introduced State Representative Rochelle R. Chronister, governor's appointee as Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Representative Chronister addressed the Committee and commented that a new organizational chart for SRS would be in place by the start of the 1996 Legislative session. She noted in her written testimony that the agency has grown to the point where it is no longer manageable, and a "spinoff" of certain entities of SRS should be made for a more efficient total management scheme of state government. Other areas of interest related to the privatizing of all child support enforcement services, as well as to examine a single point of entry for all health and welfare services, determine what state mental health and mental retardation hospitals should be closed or converted to other uses, continue the conversion to community support services in the area of mental health and mental retardation, facilitate the adoption of children who have had their parental rights severed, support community service for welfare recipients, and cooperate with the Department of Aging so that the aging population can remain in their own homes as long as possible. Representative Chronister did not feel that SRS has operated the juvenile offender system well, and that part of the agency should become part of the Corrections system or be a separate youth authority. (Attachment 1)

During Committee discussion some areas of interest and comments related to the need for SRS accountability, a credit card program for food stamp recipients and electronic benefits transfer, closure of mental retardation and mental health hospitals with available community services in place, and a teenage pregnancy prevention program. Representative Chronister also expressed her support for the Medicaid managed care process.

Senator Ramirez made a motion the Committee recommend Rochelle R. Chronister be confirmed as Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services, seconded by Senator Walker. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE  
GUEST LIST

DATE: 4-27-95

NAME	REPRESENTING
Tom Beebe	KHA
Tom Smart	

ROCHELLE CHRONISTER  
REPRESENTATIVE, THIRTEENTH DISTRICT  
ROUTE 2-BOX 321A  
NEODESHA, KANSAS 66757-0321



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HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
CHAIRMAN: EDUCATION  
MEMBER: GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
AND ELECTIONS  
BOARD MEMBER: KANSAS ADVOCACY AND  
PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
(KAPS)

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
Confirmation Hearing: Rochelle Chronister  
April 27, 1995

MADAM CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for so expeditiously calling this confirmation hearing. I hope that I can answer any questions that you might have in regard to my goals for Social and Rehabilitation Services.

I am not going to give you a new organizational chart that I am proposing for the Department, but I feel confident to predict that by the start of the 1996 session there will be a new one in place.

It is my belief that this agency has grown to the point where it is no longer manageable; and, with the Governor's agreement, we must "spin-off" some parts for a more efficient total management scheme of state government.

I believe we should consider privatizing all child support enforcement services.

I think we should examine a single point of entry for all health and welfare services.

We must determine what state mental health and mental retardation hospitals should be closed or converted to other uses to put an end to the turmoil in the lives of clients and staff.

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Attachment No. 1

Confirmation Hearing: Rochelle Chronister

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I support continuing the conversion to community support services in the areas of mental health and mental retardation.

I believe we must do everything that we can to facilitate the adoption of children who have had their parental rights severed as quickly as possible.

Our aging population want to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and I propose working with the Department of Aging to accomplish that goal.

I firmly believe that everyone who is able to work should do so, and that if they are on welfare, we should find some type of community service that they can do to earn their checks.

I do not feel that SRS has operated the juvenile offender system well. That part of the agency should become part of the corrections system or be a separate youth authority. I do not support including "children in need of care" in that authority even though I recognize that the two groups overlap.

The rehabilitation services portion of SRS should be carefully examined to see if all parties would be better served under Human Resources or the Department of Health.

This is not a comprehensive listing of what I believe we should accomplish, but it is a starting point for the direction I believe we should head.

I once again wish to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I would be pleased to answer questions.