

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jo Ann Pottorff at 3:30 p.m. on January 10, 1995, in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Susan Wagle, Excused

Committee staff present: Patricia Pierron, Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Pottorff stated the House Speaker has specified the purpose of this Select Committee is to deal with generating policy for developmentally disabled Kansans. This Committee will not deal with hospital closures nor appropriations. Our purpose is to look at the "clients" and what is best for them. The committee will try to explore and put together the "bits and pieces of this issue. The Chairman introduced staff personnel to committee members and committee members introduced themselves to everyone present.

Discussion provided several avenues to explore; the "funding streams", where these dollars come from and how we impact them by the decisions we make; i.e., HCBS waivers, Medicare, Medicaid. When do you or do you not qualify for assistance and why do you qualify at one age and not another, etc.? Develop policies connected to the good of the individual and the quality of life for each one; a public relations program to sensitize people who have not had personal experience in this area. There is a perceived need to separate myths and realities.

Representative McKechnie pointed out that in New Hampshire there is a "top to bottom" policy on providing services so that no matter where you go, no matter what question you ask or how you ask it, in every different region you receive the same answer. Presently, that does not seem to be the case in Kansas. We need to look at how someone is moved out of the hospital. How do you provide for a newborn infant with a disability? How does the state provide dollars for these services? Are we doing it in the best way? These questions need to be carried across to the other problems that are out there and efforts made to resolve them.

Representative Mayans suggested there is a need to explore placement resources for the developmentally disabled who have completed education/training courses; i.e. LEVY, etc. Health & Human Services Committee members will be touring KNI next Thursday, January 19, at 1:30 p.m. and Rep. Mayans invited members of this committee to accompany them.

Chairman Pottorff advised there will be a committee bill introduced in this session. The Committee will explore past legislation and combine that with current developments to produce the bill. At this time it is anticipated meetings will be held twice weekly.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18, 1995 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 522-S.

Chairman Pottorff adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

