

Approved: 2-7-00
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on February 1, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Others attending: See attached list

Overview of Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, BSRB, briefed the Committee on the current status of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. Ms. Gilmore noted that BSRB is the licensing board for most of the state's mental health professionals, the doctoral level psychologists, the master level psychologists, the bachelor, master and clinical level social workers, the master level professional counselors, and the master level marriage and family therapists. Most of the drug and alcohol counselors are registered with SRS at the present time. Ms. Gilmore noted that there has been a complete turnover of permanent staff since June of 1999. BSRB has gone from outdated software to state-of-the art computers, and they are currently working on a state and federal database as noted in her written testimony. (Attachment 1) Committee discussion related to the reorganization of BSRB, definition of alcohol and drug counselors, moving all alcohol and drug counselors under BSRB for licensure, and electronic license renewal "online" using credit cards.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2000.

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-1-00

NAME	REPRESENTING
Ann Killopp	
Bruce Hubin	
Vally Finney	NASW-K
Carolyn Middleton	Ks St No Assn
WILLIAM BAKER	KS FARM BUREAU
Deborah Carlson	SRS
Kathy Harmon	SRS Health Care Policy
Ann Schioferecke	Sen. Harry Stephens
Kevin Berone	Heinluer chrd
KEITH R LANDIS	CHRISTIAN SCIENCE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION FOR KANSAS
Ruth Guthrie	Healthy Midwest
LARRY FROELICH	Board of PHARMACY
Bob Williams	Ks. Pharmacists Assoc
STEVE KEANEY	KS PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY
Stor Parsons	KS C



BILL GRAVES
Governor

Phyllis Gilmore
Executive Director
(785) 296-3207
E-mail: pgilmore@ink.org

Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

712 S. Kansas Ave.

Topeka, Kansas 66603-3817

(785) 296-3240

FAX (785) 296-3112

SENATE TESTIMONY

February 1, 2000

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you on the current status of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. I am Phyllis Gilmore the Executive Director.

The BSRB is the licensing board for most of the state's mental health professionals, the doctoral level psychologists, the master level psychologists, the bachelor, master and clinical level social workers, the master level professional counselors, and the master level marriage and family therapists. Additionally, some of the drug and alcohol counselors are registered with us, although most of them are registered with SRS at the present time.

There has been a complete turnover of permanent staff since June of 1999. Currently we are a staff of seven with 6.8 budgeted FTEs.

We have reviewed board processes and most of them have been changed since this past June. One example would be that in the past one staff person handled all issues related to one profession. We now have two staff people doing all of the initial licensing for all of the professions, one staff member doing all renewals for every profession, and another doing verifications for all groups. This allows for all of the staff to interact with all of the levels of licensees.

In seven months we have gone from an "F" in Y2-K compliance to completing the year with a "C." We have gone from outdated software and computers who could not "speak" to each other to a network and seven state-of-the-art-computers using NT

Senate Public Health and Welfare
Date: 2-1-00
Attachment No. 1

software. We have our licensees in an access database that we can query and are in the process of putting investigative information into a section of the same database.

The 1999 Legislature passed HB 2213 that created three new levels of licensure. These are clinical licenses, modeled after the social work clinical license, for the other three master level professionals, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors and master level psychologists. Anyone holding the "clinical" designation will then be allowed to diagnose and treat mental illness in an independent setting. Currently we are writing regulations and preparing to handle the applicants for the new licensure level on July 1, 2000 when the law actually goes into effect.

The current staff has put forth an extraordinary effort during the interim period prior to my arrival. They have truly taken ownership and pride in the work that has been accomplished here. Everyone is truly putting forth maximum effort. It is the type of morale and high level of output that would be great if found everywhere in the state government.

Both the first edition newsletter and the newly created Web Site are attempts to better communicate with the public and our licensees. Both have been very enthusiastically received.

We are working on our reporting efforts to both a state and federal database. We expect that in the next few months we can become compliant with these requirements.

It is anticipated that the 2000 Legislature may move all alcohol and drug counselors under the BSRB for licensure. This is their request, but we would gladly welcome them.

We are also planning to begin a pilot program for pre-approving providers of continuing education. This was done in the past, but discontinued. This has been requested by many of our licensees.

Investigations had a very large backlog. However our new investigator is methodically and with excellence moving through them. People were very frustrated at the length of time it took to work through an investigation and we are attempting streamline the process to be more efficient yet thorough.

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you on the current status of the BSRB. I will be happy to stand for questions.