

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Morrison at 1:30 p.m. on February 6, 2003, in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Landwehr and Holland.

Committee staff present:

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Janette Delinger, President, Kansas Dental Hygienists Association
Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association
Joyce Volmut, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved

Others attending: See Guest List.

By motion, second, and unanimous vote the minutes for the February 4 meeting were approved.

For purposes of hearing **HB 2155**, Representative Patterson chaired the meeting.

Janette Delinger, President of the Kansas Dental Hygienists Association, spoke in support of **HB 2155**. (Attachment 1) She said the bill was created specifically for the "Mission of Mercy" (MOM) sponsored by the Kansas Dental Association, which will provide dental services to 1500-2000 individuals on February 14-16 in Garden City.

Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association, representing 80% of Kansas dentists, gave further details about KMOM. (Attachment 2) He noted that after hearing the briefing yesterday, he intends to work with staff to make the language consistent between the two areas of the statutes. Mr. Robertson said the intent of the bill is to create a 14-day permit for licensed out-of-state dentists and hygienists to provide dental care to indigent Kansans at the Finney County Fairgrounds. He said the concept of a free dental clinic was begun in Virginia two years ago, the Virginia legislature passing legislation similar to **HB 2155** to facilitate dental services; he noted that the Finney County endeavor will include 45 dental chairs, interpreters, meals, and the assistance of church groups. With the passage of **HB 2155**, he said colleagues in Oklahoma, Nebraska and Colorado could be involved to make the event regional.

Representatives Bethell, Storm, and Sharp commended the Dental Association for this service. Mr. Robertson said the membership was energized over this project more than any other in recent memory. Representative Sharp observed that 40 translators speaking 8 different languages would be on hand for the event. Answering a question, Mr. Robertson said that emergency medical services would be on site

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE at on February 6, 2003, in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

during the event.

Joyce Volmut, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, spoke in support of the bill. (Attachment 3) She commended the KDA for offering this service to those without access to dental care.

Staff Bill Wolff observed that the conflict between the wording of the charitable health care statutes and the dental statutes could be satisfactorily reconciled.

Representative Patterson as Chair closed the hearing for **HB 2155**.

Chairman Morrison announced further bill hearings for the coming week. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, a joint meeting with the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, in 243-N.

**HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: FEBRUARY 6 2003

NAME	REPRESENTING
Wisa Ross RDH	North Central KS Dent Hyg Assoc. & KDHA
Maggie Smet RDH	Wichita Dental Hygienists Assoc.
Janette Delinger, RDH	Kansas Dental Hyg. Assoc.
Jane Valmont	Kansas Association Med Underrepresented
Kelly D. Douglas	KS Dental Association
DEVIN ROBERTSON	KS DENTAL ASSN
Art Athey	KS DENTAL ASSN
GINDI SHERWOOD	KDA
Paul J. [unclear]	KDA
Greg J. [unclear]	KDA
Scott B. Hene	KDA
Joni BRUND	KS. Dental Hyg. Assn.
JOHN C. BOTTENBERG	DELTA DENTAL
Jenni Freed	KS Dental Bd

**Testimony Before House Health and Human Services Committee
Regarding HB 2155 Temporary License for Dentists and Dental Hygienists
Presented by Janette Delinger, President
Kansas Dental Hygienists Association
Thursday, February 6, 2003**

Thank you Chairman Morrison and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee. The Kansas Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA) urges your support for HB 2155, allowing the temporary licensure of Dentists and Dental Hygienist for the purposes of providing charitable services authorized under KSA 75-6102.

Passage of this bill will allow licensed Dental Hygienist living outside of Kansas the opportunity to assist with the special access-to-care clinics sponsored by the Kansas Dental Association and Kansas Dental Hygienists Association. Plans are already underway for our first free clinic in Garden City later this month with another clinic planned for Kansas City later this year.

KDHA has worked closely with the Kansas Dental Association on planning for the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) projects since early last year. Your support for the temporary licensure proposal will assist us in broadening the pool of licensed dental health providers who are eligible to participate in these events.

KDHA is the professional association of Kansas Registered Dental Hygienists. With members from all regions of the state, KDHA is a proactive voice for access to dental health.

Attachment 1
HHS 2-6-03

KANSAS DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Date: February 6, 2003

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Kevin J. Robertson, CAE
Executive Director

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2155

Chairman Morrison and members of the committee I am Kevin Robertson, executive director of the Kansas Dental Association representing 1,168, or some 80% of the state's licensed dentists. I am here today in SUPPORT of HB 2155.

We heard yesterday concerns that were raised by Dr. Wolfe regarding the bill. I will address my remarks to the intent of the bill, and then ask that the KDA and KDHA be given an opportunity to sit down with staff and Representatives Patterson and Hill to work out the logistical problems with the HB 2155.

The intent of HB 2155 is simply to amend the Kansas Dental Practice Act to provide for the Kansas Dental Board to issue 14-day temporary licenses to both out-of-state dentists and dental hygienists who wish to do charitable work in Kansas.

The out-of-state dentists and dental hygienists would have to have completed training at an accredited school, not have failed the Kansas licensure exam, and be in good standing in the state(s) in which they are licensed. The settings these dentists and dental hygienists could practice would be limited to those outlined in the Kansas Charitable Healthcare Provider Act. Specifically, those persons who provide gratuitous services to the medically indigent in a health clinic or through our Kansas Mission of Mercy project that you discussed on the House floor yesterday and passed in the form of SB 34 this morning.

As you have heard, the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) is a dental outreach that is being funded entirely through the generosity of Kansas dentists and private funders. No governmental funding is being used – and none was sought.

The KDA's Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation has joined forces with the Kansas Dental Hygienist's Association, Kansas Dental Assistants Association, local dental societies, dental product suppliers, the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Mexican American Ministries, community volunteers, and civic groups to help provide dental care to persons in need and combat a growing problem in many areas of Kansas - access to dental care.

Thousands of Kansans with little or no ability to pay for dental services suffer pain from lack of care. On the weekend of February 28, March 1 and 2 at the Finney County Fairgrounds in Garden City we will provide a wide range of dental services to all comers at absolutely no cost.

Attachment 2
HHS 2-6-03

Volunteer professionals from the sponsoring organizations, including 60 dental hygienists, 100 dentists, and 100 dental assistants will set up a 45-chair dental clinic and administer free dental care to as many area residents as can be accommodated during the Friday to Sunday event. In all, some 400 volunteers are supporting KMOM. In addition to dental professionals, more than a dozen dental students from two schools, dental laboratory personnel, dental equipment and dental supply representatives, church volunteers, civic clubs, Garden City police, as well as school nurses and the local medical community will be on hand. The Kansas event is modeled after similar projects in Virginia and Texas. In addition to area residents receiving needed dental care - medical screenings and immunizations through local physicians will be offered.

Garden City was chosen as the site for this first-ever KMOM project because of its diverse and economically impacted population. The second project will be held at the Wyandotte County Fairgrounds November 14-16, 2003. The KDA's intent is to continue to host two KMOM projects each year in both shifting and recurring locations.

The KDA estimates that 1,500 to 2,000 people will receive \$500,000 or more in free dental services during the three day KMOM event. When all volunteer time – including police support, meals, interpreters, etc. The KMOM project may well approach \$1 million in total volunteer participation.

This is all well and good, but why HB 2155? Kansas dentists first became energized to coordinate KMOM after learning of a similar event in Virginia. Two Kansas dentists - Drs. Jeff Stasch, Garden City and Jon Tilton, Wichita - ventured to Wise, Virginia and through a temporary dentist licensure law on the books in Virginia were able to provide dental care during that event. There are dental mission trips all over the world that dentists participate in and freely lend their professional services. Whether a dentist or dental hygienist licensed outside Kansas is looking for a new mission experience, coming home, or other, we want to afford them that opportunity in Kansas, while at the same time broadening the pool of dental personnel who can serve. Also, it is the goal of the KDA and its partners to provide an opportunity for dentists in area states to participate in and experience the KMOM project that they may, in turn, be energized to begin similar programs in their own states.

Two large states, Texas and Virginia, currently have working MOM projects. It is the KDA's goal to be a leader in mission dentistry and with your help we can convince our dental colleagues in other states to join us.

Thank you for your time today, I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time. I urge you to support HB 2155 with a favorable recommendation.



Kansas Association
for the
Medically Underserved
The State Primary Care Association

112 SW 6th Ave., Suite 201 Topeka, KS 66603 785-233-8483 Fax 785-233-8403 www.ink.org/public/kamu

February 6, 2003

Health and Human Services Committee

Chairman Morrison:

My name is Joyce Volmut with the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved. I am here today to testify in favor of House Bill 2155, which would create the opportunity for qualified out of state dentists and dental hygienists to temporarily practice in community settings such as local health departments or indigent care clinics. The impetus behind this bill, as we understand it, is to allow dental care to be delivered at community sites in activities designed to treat large numbers of patients on a time-limited basis.

While not a full substitute for access to ongoing dental care, utilization of appropriately credentialed out-of-state dentists and dental hygienists begins to address the gap between the enormous need for unmet dental care and the dramatic lack of access to, dental care services. Dental care initiatives that temporarily bring these providers to underserved populations provide an opportunity to "buy time", if you will, until as a state we can begin systematically addressing and remediating the root causes for lack of access to dental care.

Failure to pass this legislation will result in lost opportunities for the impoverished to be provided needed dental care services.

Thank you.

Kansas Health Centers - A Good Investment HHS

Attachment 3

2-6-03