

Approved: February 4, 2010
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGING AND LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2010, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Owen Donohoe- excused
Representative Don Hill- excused
Representative Scott Schwab- excused
Representative Ron Worley- excused

Committee staff present:

Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judith Holliday, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Debra Zehr, President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for Aging
Jim Snyder, Speaker, Kansas Silver Haired Legislature

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Bethell told Committee members that if they were interested in physical fitness, he has pedometers available so they can keep track of the many steps they take each day. He advised them that the sign on for the website would be available next week, and that their office staffs may also sign on and join the fitness challenge.

Chairman Bethell asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the committee meetings for January 14, 19, and 21. Representative Furtado made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Bollier. The motion carried.

Chairman Bethell told the Committee that Monday is the last day to introduce bills in Committee, and that two issues from last year, geriatric mental health and elder abuse, need discussion. The Chairman entertained a motion to conceptually introduce these two bills within the next couple of weeks. Representative Phelps made a motion to conceptually introduce a bill on geriatric mental health and a bill on elder abuse, seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.

Debra Zehr, President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for Aging (KAHSA), gave oral comments to the Committee on dealing with the exploitation of the elderly. She stated that this is a huge problem that continues to grow, and that family members of the elderly person often rob or misappropriate money.

Ms. Zehr told the Committee that the Governor had signed a bill last year which established that a power of attorney must keep money belonging to an elderly person separate and keep accurate records of expenditures. She stated that this year, KAHSA is working with legislators, agencies, and the Attorney General's office on a bill introduction to follow up on last year's **SB 45 - an act concerning the Kansas power of attorney act**, which would assess penalties to the power of attorney for misappropriating money. The Attorney General wants the bill in the Judiciary Committee, but it is in the House and has not been assigned a number.

Representative Williams commented that he and Chairman Bethell had been appointed by Attorney General Steve Six to an Advisory Committee which would be studying the issue of abuse and neglect of the elderly.

Jim Snyder, Speaker, Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, told the Committee that last year's HB 2057 would provide mental health services for people all across Kansas but it came with a high fiscal note. He stated that this year, the group wants a concurrent resolution with no fiscal note to address this issue, and expressed hope that the Revisor's office could provide the language for the Resolution.

Mr. Snyder's handout was a narrative on the efforts of Bryce Miller to raise awareness on the issue of

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2010, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

mental illness and in promoting the need for treatment. (Attachment 1) Mr. Miller struggled with his own mental illness and was truly an advocate for those with mental health issues and for the aging.

Mr. Snyder expressed hope that the Committee would vote for a Concurrent Resolution to honor Bryce Miller's efforts, and that they could present the Resolution to his widow.

Representative Phelps made a motion to enter as a Committee a Concurrent Resolution in honor of Bryce Miller. Representative Bollier seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

**AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: 1/28/2010

NAME	FIRM REPRESENTED
CNAIB Gunter	Kansas State Nurses Assoc.
Rui Jia.	Rep. Horst.'s internships.
Jim Snyder	KS SKL
C. David Ranner	Kearney & Assoc.
TED HENRY	CAPITOL STRATEGIES.
Aui Hyten	Tulpeka Independent Living Resource Center
Debra Zehr	KATSA
MARA GUNDE	JAMA
Emma Eckert	Rep. Fortado intern
Amy Campbell	KMHC
Ray Dalton	SRS
Richard Shank	Alliance for Kansans with D.D.
Belinda Vierthaler	State LTC Ombudsman

Please Sign in Black ink

BRYCE MILLER

May 30, 1931 – March 3, 2009

Bryce Miller, Topeka was dedicated to the advancement of mental health care for all Kansans. He was a tireless advocate for mental health and aging—and was instrumental in legislation introduced which would begin to address providing mental health treatment to those seniors with depression or other mental health issues.

Bryce Miller served as a board member of Valeo Behavioral Health Care in Topeka for many years, and worked to promote mental health screening and treatment for seniors and others in the Topeka and surrounding communities.

Bryce Miller was the driving force behind monuments placed in memory of 1, 157 people who were hospitalized, died and buried at the Topeka State Hospital Cemetery. Their graves were never marked, and they were forgotten people—largely due to the stigma of mental illness during the past two centuries. Bryce Miller helped raise awareness and funds to build two markers which list all the names of those who died and were forgotten at the hospital between 1879 and 1954.

Bryce Miller lived with his own mental illness and the results of it in the “fish bowl” of the public eye to give a “normalcy” to the condition: “It’s you, it’s me, it’s our son or daughter...”

Bryce Miller challenged Kansan’s to understand that those struggling with mental health issues needed the same access to treatment, medication, support and recovery as well as those who deal with physical illness.

Bryce Miller was instrumental in arranging for the first ever Mental Health and Seniors Presentation at the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)...was the major force in getting two major Kansas Mental Health and Aging Summits...and arranged for Kansas to be one of only 3 nationwide focus group sites for the Older Adult Consumer Alliance.