

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rick Billinger at 10:30 am on Wednesday, March 05, 2025, in room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator J.R. Claeys – Excused

Committee staff present:

Chardae Caine, Legislative Research Department

David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Dylan Dear, Legislative Research Department

Jessie Pringle, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Kyle Anderson, Legislative Research Department

Nancy Fontaine, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Megan Leopold, Legislative Research Department

Amanda Prosser, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Secretary Laura Howard, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Secretary Janet Stanek, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others in attendance:

No list available

Request for bill introductions

There were no requests for bill introductions.

Budget Hearings

Kansas Department for Children and Families: Amanda Prosser, Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD), provided an overview of the agency budget and distributed a document displaying the Governor's differences from the Legislative Budget Committee's recommendations. Ms. Prosser responded to questions for Committee members. ([Attachment 1](#))

Secretary Laura Howard highlighted the agency priorities for FY 2025 and FY 2026. For FY2025, the Secretary is asking to have funds reappropriated to cover contracts that have already been let. For FY 2026, there are two enhancements that are the highest priorities: end the use of children's federal benefits for fund foster care and behavioral health intervention for placement stability in foster care. Secretary Howard responded to questions from Committee members. ([Attachment 2](#))

Written only comments were submitted by:

Patrick Jonas, Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Ways and Means at 10:30 am on Wednesday, March 05, 2025, in room 548-S of the Capitol.

Adrienne Olejnik, Kansas Action for Children ([Attachment 4](#))

Mary Shannon, Big Brothers Big Sisters ([Attachment 5](#))

Kansas Department of Health and Human Services--Health: Megan Leopold, KLRD, provided an overview of the agency budget and distributed a document displaying the Governor's differences from the Legislative Budget Committee's recommendations. ([Attachment 6](#))

Secretary Janet Stanek asked the Committee to consider lapsed funding for four areas: KDHE Lab operating expenditures and lab equipment, the childcare center pilot with Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and the Medicaid Data Warehouse project. There are also needs in FY 2026 for health facility surveys and disease investigation. The Medicaid Program has funding needs for the Gainwell contract and centralized credentialing. Secretary Stanek responded to questions from Committee members. ([Attachment 7](#))

Written only comments were submitted by:

Marissa Alcantar, Alliance for a Healthy Kansas ([Attachment 8](#))

Randy Bowman, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments ([Attachment 9](#))

Heather Braum, Kansas Action for Children ([Attachment 10](#))

Ronnie Coleman, Benevis ([Attachment 11](#))

John Cuffe, Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas ([Attachment 12](#))

Tanya Dorf Brunner, Oral Health Kansas ([Attachment 13](#))

Sean Gatewood and Barb Conant, KanCare Advocates Network ([Attachment 14](#))

Jamie Gideon, Alzheimer's Association ([Attachment 15](#))

Jennifer Goehring, Ascension Via Christi ([Attachment 16](#))

Bill Heinrich, Advent Health ([Attachment 17](#))

Charlie Hunt, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment ([Attachment 18](#))

Melanie Jacobs, Private Citizen ([Attachment 19](#))

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Jill Jenkins, Dentist ([Attachment 20](#))

Patrick Jonas, Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas ([Attachment 21](#))

Rob Kiser, Dentist ([Attachment 22](#))

Shayla Koochel, Salina Regional Health Center ([Attachment 23](#))

MaryAnne Lynch Small, Oral Health Kansas ([Attachment 24](#))

Tara Mays, Kansas Hospital Association ([Attachment 25](#))

Teran Naccarato, Private Citizen ([Attachment 26](#))

Bridgit Patterson, Epilepsy Foundation ([Attachment 27](#))

Jeron Ravin, Swope Health ([Attachment 28](#))

Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association ([Attachment 29](#))

Nick Rogers, Dentist ([Attachment 30](#))

Ridge Rose, Children's Mercy ([Attachment 31](#))

Janelle Shumaker, Adventure Dental and Vision ([Attachment 32](#))

Megan Skaggs, Project Access, Health Access and Wy Jo Care ([Attachment 33](#))

Tosha Vann, American Academy of Pediatrics ([Attachment 34](#))

Tammy Vicin, Private Citizen ([Attachment 35](#))

Lily Wakim, Dentist ([Attachment 36](#))

Dave Weinberg, LivaNova ([Attachment 37](#))

Kathryn Welch and Subhash Shah, Neurology Center of Wichita ([Attachment 38](#))

Chairperson Billinger adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm. The next meeting is March 6, 2025.