

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 11:55 a.m. on February 27, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator David Adkins - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary, Health Care Policy, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Jim Karlan, Executive Director, Southwest Guidance Center, Inc., Liberal, KS
Dwight Young, Executive Director, The Center for Counseling and Consultation, Great Bend, KS
Elizabeth Adams, Executive Director, NAMI Kansas
Pete Zevenbergen, Executive Director, Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare
Diane Drake, Executive Director, Franklin County Mental Health Center

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Morris called the Committee's attention to discussion of:

SB 508--Emergency medical services board, financial support, authorizing certain transfers

Staff distributed a copy of a chart, State Fire Marshal Fee Fund (Attachment 1). Committee questions and discussion followed on the bill.

Senator Jackson moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to amend SB 508 to repeal the requirement that the 20 percent of Fire Marshall Fee Fund receipts be remitted to the State General Fund. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Salmans, to recommend Substitute for SB 508 favorably for passage as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Chairman Morris continued the meeting with a discussion of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Mental Health 2000 Initiative:

Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary, Health Care Policy, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, briefed the Committee on the implementation of the initiative and issues regarding financing and delivery of mental health services (Attachment 2). She mentioned that the goals of the initiative are to increase accountability in the public mental health system, increase timely access to services and fill gaps in crisis services available in local communities. Ms. Howard also explained mid-course adjustments to the Mental Health Initiative 2000 and the impact of the Mental Health Initiative 2000 on Medicaid caseloads.

James Karlan, Executive Director, Southwest Guidance Center, Inc., spoke briefly about mental health reform (Attachment 3). Mr. Karlan expressed concern about the issues of redistribution and the placing of

CONTINUATION SHEET

community mental health centers in the State's consensus pool. He also noted that placing the community mental health centers in the consensus estimating pool will cost the State more money for the same amount of services the community mental health centers are currently delivering under the Certified Match Plan.

Dwight Young, Executive Director, The Center for Counseling and Consultation, expressed concern that the advantage of Certified Match to the State is that the State General Fund commitment can be negotiated and capped each year, instead of the open ended "entitlement" of the Consensus Estimating Pool (Attachment 4). He mentioned that continuing the current funding mechanism and delaying the implementation of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services proposed plan would be a wise alternative.

Elizabeth Adams, Executive Director, NAMI Kansas, requested further study of the Initiative before action is taken to potentially undermine or irrevocably harm the mental health system or any individual it serves (Attachment 5). She noted that NAMI Kansas requests a Task Force that would incorporate affected and involved stakeholders to carefully plan the implementation and definite service outcomes for Mental Health Initiative 2000.

Pete Zevenbergen, Executive Director, Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, moved to Kansas from another state which was different in the way mental health services are funded than in Kansas and where everything was fee for service. Mr. Zevenbergen noted that Wyandot Center, in this proposed Initiative, stands to lose considerable dollars in current funding which raises concern with him. He did note that the more he looked for opportunities in the plan, the more he realized that his consumers could benefit significantly. Mr. Zevenbergen mentioned that the bottom line for his community is that when he looked at the proposed Initiative, he looked at it as an opportunity to better provide services to consumers in his community. (No written testimony was submitted.)

Diane Drake, Executive Director, Franklin County Mental Health Clinic, mentioned that she represents a small rural community mental health center of the Osawatomie State Hospital Catchment area (Attachment 6). Ms. Drake mentioned in her testimony that her center compromises despite its growing dependence on Medicaid. She noted that since she believes that the legislature is not in the position to come up with new dollars to expand certified match, she supports options examined by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Chairman Morris thanked those who participated in the discussion. Senator Huelskamp requested information regarding variability on county mill levies in the various areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2002.