

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 February 5, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Don Myers- excused

Committee staff present:

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Judith Holliday, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Anne Marie Hughey, Legislative & Policy Advocate, SKIL Resources, Inc.

Carrie Greenwood, Program Coordinator, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy

Representative Larry Powell

Written testimony only:

Debra Zehr, President, Kansas Association of Homes & Services for the Aging

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Bethell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Anne Marie Hughey, Legislative and Policy Advocate, SKIL Resources, Inc., testified before the Committee on the Independent Living philosophy. (Attachment 1) Ms. Hughey gave a brief overview of the social movements that influenced the Independent Living philosophy. Giving individuals with disabilities options to make choices in their lives, providing support, and removing barriers that limit those choices are vital components to enabling individuals with disabilities to be self-sufficient, independent members of society.

Carrie Greenwood, Program Coordinator, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA), testified before the Committee about the work of the KYEA. (Attachment 2) Ms. Greenwood stated the mission of the KYEA is to promote and support the development of youth with disabilities in Kansas so they become empowered as community leaders through education, mentoring, and peer support.

Ms. Greenwood explained the program called the Disability Heritage Project which empowers those with disabilities, and educates those who are not disabled. Their task force is advocating passage of a bill and resolution this legislative session.

Ms. Greenwood used Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) as an example of how people with disabilities can live in their own homes, work, be independent, and make decisions based on their own choices. She used herself as an example: she works full time and is a taxpayer. The HCBS program allows her to have a personal care attendant during those times of the day when she needs assistance, allowing her to work and be productive.

One of the most important tools we as a society can provide our young people is to encourage and support them and believe they can be successful, contributing members of society. If youth are our future, we must equip them today for a future free from barriers and full of promise.

Chairman Bethell asked Carrie to bring together for a future meeting individuals who are involved in businesses created and operated by individuals with disabilities. Chairman Bethell stated he wants to see individuals that have previously been consumers of our tax dollars, but now are contributing to our tax dollars.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Aging And Long Term Care Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 5, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

Hearing on HB 2019 - Medicaid eligibility requirements; allow collateral assignment of life insurance proceeds.

Chairman Bethell opened the hearing on **HB 2019** and asked the Committee to look in their folders at a fiscal note on the bill.

Staff from the Revisor's Office presented an overview of the bill.

Representative Larry Powell testified in support of **HB 2019**. (Attachment 3) Representative Powell stated he introduced **HB 2019** after receiving a letter regarding cashing out of life insurance policies. The policy value of life insurance is usually much larger than the cash value, and if the policy is terminated and the cash value is placed in a person's account to be 'spent down,' the State of Kansas could lose the potential of repayment for Medicaid Services. **HB 2019** would allow the policy to be retained and the face value would be used to cover the cost of providing Medicaid Services at the death of the person. This would not apply to long-term care insurance.

There was considerable discussion about the bill and its ramifications. Chairman Bethell stated he felt the fiscal note needs to be analyzed before the Committee works the bill.

Debra Zehr, President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2019**. (Attachment 4) An individual giving collateral assignment of the life insurance proceeds to the State Medicaid program allows the state to recoup some of its costs for that individual's care. Ms. Zehr's testimony offered recommendations on changes in terminology to clarify and better protect the state Medicaid program.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2019**.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The next scheduled committee meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 2009.