

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on March 15, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
JoAnn Buntun, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Christine Ross-Baze, Director, Child Care Licensing and Registration Section, KDHE
Leadell Ediger, Executive Director, Kansas Assn. of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
Doug Bowman, Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing on HB 2755 - Prohibitions and restrictions on disclosure of certain information by the Department of Health and Environment

Christine Ross-Baze, Director, Child Care Licensing and Registration Section, KDHE, testified before the Committee in support of **HB 2755** that would clarify the distribution of personal information of maternity centers, child care facilities, and family day care homes regulated by the Department of Health and Environment. Ms. Ross-Baze noted that KDHE requests that the bill include those entities who have been issued administrative enforcement orders by the Department. She pointed out that without this authority, parents and the public must rely on the noncompliant child care provider to give notification that the care they are providing is unsafe, and this information is not always passed onto the parents. (Attachment 1) During Committee discussion the Chair noted that the Department of Education has requested that they have the ability to inform the sponsoring food supplier when a home is no longer licensed. The Revisor will draft language that would address that issue as an amendment to the bill.

Leadell Ediger, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, expressed her support for the bill and asked that clarification be made if her organization would have access to information from KDHE and whether they could provide that information to their clients. (Attachment 2)

Doug Bowman, Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, expressed his support for **HB 2755** and asked the Committee to consider the following: (1) Provide information to parents regarding the track record of a certain provider, (2) allow KDHE to provide the name, number and address of the local child care referral agency to the parent, and (3) provide information to the public when KDHE enacts an enforcement action against a child care provider. (Attachment 3) During Committee discussion Dr. Moser, Director of Health, KDHE, provided the Committee with information relating to how KDHE determines when a child care facility should be suspended. He noted that a minimum offense is not defined in their list of possible suspensions. A member of the Committee suggested that the provider inform the parents of their suspension, and a financial penalty be enforced if the provider fails to comply with that request. The Chair asked the Revisor to review the bill and incorporate language in a balloon of the bill of all suggestions that were made during the hearing.

Discussion of Amendments to HB 2780 - Establishing a task force on long-term care services

The Chair briefed the Committee on a balloon of the bill and would increase the number of providers on the task force from three to four and extend the task force to July 1, 2002. (Attachment 4) During Committee discussion it was suggested that the task force be extended to January 2005, that a definition of long-term care be included in the bill, and the task force be directed to develop creative, common sense solutions to problems relating to long-term care that would not require additional funds. The Chair requested the Revisor draft another balloon of the bill that would include these suggestions for consideration by the Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2000.