

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 PM on Thursday, February 9, 2012 in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Denning – Excused
Representative Calloway - Excused

Committee staff present:

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Joseph Leiker, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debbie Bartuccio, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kevin Robertson, CAE, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Assoc. ([Attachment 1](#))
Dr. Cindi Sherwood, General Dentist, Independence, Kansas ([Attachment 2](#))
Dr. Brett Roufs, General Dentist, Newton, Kansas ([Attachment 3](#))
Dr. David Hamel, General Dentist, Marysville, Kansas ([Attachment 4](#))
Dr. Hal Hale, General Dentist in Wichita, Kansas and President of the Kansas Dental Association ([Attachment 5](#))
Tanya Dorf Brunner, Executive Director, Oral Health Kansas ([Attachment 6](#))

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

HB 2631–Dental care availability and access

Chairperson Landwehr opened the hearing on the bill.

Kevin Robertson provided testimony in support of the bill. The Kansas Dental Association believes that all Kansans deserve access to quality oral health care for their comprehensive oral health needs. The bill is a comprehensive approach to improving dental care to Kansans as it seeks to safely and responsibly improve the delivery of oral healthcare throughout the state by increasing the supply of dentists available in underserved areas of Kansas, improving the dentist access of Kansas’ most vulnerable citizens, and by using the existing infrastructure to allow dental hygienists to perform more dental procedures to deliver more care without a dentist being present. He provided information concerning the four sections of the bill. He also reviewed a few minor amendments to the bill that he categorized as cleanup to the bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dr. Cindi Sherwood provided testimony in support of the bill. Her goal was to inform the Committee about the concept of the Extended Care Permit hygienist, the education required for Extended Care Permit Dental Hygienist III and the expansion of services that this position would provide. ([Attachment 2](#))

Dr. Brett Roufs provided testimony in support of the bill. He has been heavily involved with developing the new standard. He stated a hygienist with an ECP III permit would be a valuable member of the dental team and would now be able to allow some palliative treatment if a patient were having areas that might be causing pain or discomfort to the resident. ([Attachment 3](#))

Dr. David Hamel provided testimony in support of the bill. He stated a goal of the bill is to provide more opportunities for our at risk population to break a cycle that many times exists in low income populations with regards to dental health. By focusing upon prevention and literacy we create opportunities, through an ECP III initiative, for children and their caregivers to receive preventive care and education in facilities other than a dental office, such as Headstart facilities. This initiative will also develop opportunities for people of all ages, including nursing home residents to receive triage care and facilitate any needed dental surgical care directly with a dentist. ([Attachment 4](#))

Dr. Hal Hale provided testimony in support of the bill. His statements focused on the portion of the bill which would create a special volunteer dental license for dentists who are retired from active practice and wish to donate their services for the dental care and treatment of the underserved persons of the state. If enacted, this legislation would have an immediate impact of access to dental care for low-income children and families in our state. He stated the American Dental Association's Department of State Government Affairs reports that about 39 states allow their state dental boards to issue this type of volunteer license. The specific details of retired volunteer licenses vary from state to state. ([Attachment 5](#))

Tanya Dorf Brunner provided testimony in support of the bill. Oral Health Kansas sees three types of barriers to accessing oral health in our state: access to a payment source; access to a provider; and willingness to access services. The new ECP level would allow specially-trained dental hygienists to perform basic restorative procedures, thereby improving access to dental services for certain populations. She addressed some key components of the bill including some recommended amendments to the language of the bill. ([Attachment 6](#))

Written testimony in support of the bill was provided by:

Dr. Kathy Weno, DDS, JD, Director, Bureau of Oral Health at KDHE ([Attachment 7](#))

Rachel Monger, JD, Director of Government Affairs, Leading Age Kansas ([Attachment 8](#))

There was no testimony submitted in opposition to the bill.

There was no verbal testimony that was neutral to the bill. Written testimony neutral to the bill was submitted by:

Suzanne Wikle, Kansas Dental Project ([Attachment 9](#))

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Following the completion of a question and answer session, Chairperson Landwehr closed the hearing on the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2012.

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