

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Mah – Excused
Representative Mast – Excused

Committee staff present:

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Katherine McBride, 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:

Julie Hein, Mental Health Credentialing Coalition (Attachment 1)
Tom Hawk, Ph.D., Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (Attachment 2)
Sarah Hansen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (Attachment 3)
Pam Scott, Executive Director, Kansas Funeral Directors Association (Attachment 7)

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

SB 290–Addictions counselor licensure act

Chairperson Landwehr opened the hearing on the bill.

Julie Hein provided testimony in place of Ron Hein, who was attended another hearing, in support of the bill. The Mental Health Credentialing Coalition (MHCC) is comprised of the members of the Kansas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the Kansas Association of Masters in Psychology and the Kansas Mental Health Counselors Association. The MHCC respectfully requests the committee approve the bill as it has been submitted by the Behavioral Sciences Regularly Board (BSRB). The primary goal of the MHCC was to establish a mechanism by which mental health providers licensed by the BSRB with the scope of practice that includes the ability to diagnose and treat mental disorders set out in the DSM-IV-TR, not see their scopes of practice restricted by the licensed addictions counselors licensure act, which specifically exempted all other BSRB licensed mental health practitioners with the scope of

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Committee at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, March 6, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

practice authorization to diagnose and treat all mental disorders. When the SRS threatened the inability to receive Medicaid reimbursement, it became clearer to these BSRB mental health practitioners that both Medicaid and other insurance companies in the future could require the LCAC or LAC designation in order to receive the reimbursement. Therefore, it was desirous to have some mechanism for achieving a pathway to dual licensure for those individuals who wanted to proceed with the continuation of their practice regarding addictions counseling. A compromise was reached with the Kansas Association of Addictions Professionals (KAAP). ([Attachment 1](#))

Tom Hawk provided testimony in support of the bill. His testimony included an outline of the major parts of the bill which change and update the Addictions Counselor Licensure Act from last year. He also shared the recent history and concerns expressed in the process of adopting the Rules and Regulations for the newly formed Addiction Counselor Licensure. Finally, he explained the charge to the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) to find a compromise regarding the problems presented to the Joint Rules and Regulations Committee this summer and fall, and he summarized the support of the Board for the changes addressed by this bill. ([Attachment 2](#))

Sarah Hansen provided testimony in support of the bill. The Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals is comprised of nearly 500 addiction treatment and prevention professionals and treatment program providers from across the state of Kansas. The association is pleased with the work of the compromise committee and respects the decision of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board to move forward with the three proposed changes. She noted all of the participating parties agreed to these elements and supported the notion of no further changes. ([Attachment 3](#))

Written only testimony in support of the bill was provided by:

Whitney Damron, Kansas Psychological Association ([Attachment 4](#))

Gary Haulmark, Deputy Secretary of SRS/Disability and Behavioral Health Services ([Attachment 5](#))

Sky Westerlund, Executive Director, Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers ([Attachment 6](#))

No written only testimony in opposition to the bill was submitted. No verbal or written only testimony neutral to the bill was submitted.

After all questions from the committee were addressed, Chairperson Landwehr closed the hearing on the bill.

SB 303–Disposition of unclaimed cremated remains; veterans’ cremated remains

Chairperson Landwehr opened the hearing on the bill.

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Pam Scott provided testimony in support of the bill. She stated the main purpose of the bill is to establish a process to allow funeral establishments, branch establishments and crematories to determine whether unclaimed cremated remains in their possession are those of a veteran and, if they are those of a veteran, to turn the unclaimed cremated remains over to a veteran's cemetery for an honorable disposition. As background, there is a movement across the United States to see that unclaimed cremated remains of veterans are located, identified and interred. The mission of the project is to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes. (Attachment 7)

No written only testimony in support of the bill was submitted. No verbal or written only testimony either in opposition or neutral to the bill was submitted.

After all questions from the committee were addressed, Chairperson Landwehr closed the hearing on the bill.

The committee then proceeded to work **SB 290**. The Chair asked for questions or comments concerning the bill.

Representative Crum made a motion to pass SB 290 favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Flaherty. The motion carried.

The committee then proceeded to work **SB 303**. The Chair asked for questions or comments concerning the bill.

Revisor Furse reviewed some technical amendments to ensure definitions and clarify the language. *Representative Flaherty made a motion to amend the bill as presented by Revisor Furse. The motion was seconded by Representative Donohoe. The motion carried.*

Representative Flaherty made a motion to pass the bill favorable as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Donohoe. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2012.