

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 1:30 p.m. On February 7, 2011, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Katherine McBride, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department  
Carolyn Long, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Andy Allison, Kansas Health Policy Authority  
Ron Hein, Kansas Physical Therapy Association  
Carolyn Bloom, physical therapist

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Senator Steve Abrams requested introduction of legislation designating certain drugs as a controlled substance, mirroring legislation that was introduced in the House. There was no objection to the introduction of this legislation and was carried on a voice vote.

Senator Vicki Schmidt requested legislation coming from the Regional Trama Council. There being no objection the motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chair welcomed Dr. Andy Allison, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority. Dr. Allison gave an over-view of the KHPA by stating that the Agency's priorities were to eliminate the clearinghouse backlog, address the Medicaid cost crisis, and implementing the Governor's proposed restructuring. After some questions from the committee, Dr. Allison was asked by the Chair, due to a time restriction, to please return to complete his presentation at a future date. At that time he was asked to present a copy of the application used by the Agency to obtain their information regarding simplification of income data (Attachment #1).

The Chair opened the hearing on **SB 76—Representation of licensure; certification and credentials of doctors of physical therapy and physical therapy assistants.**

Ron Hein, legislative counsel for the Kansas Physical Therapy Association, testified supporting this legislation. The bill amends the definitions section and the title protection section of the physical therapy licensure act. The amendments permit licensees to use the term “doctor of physical therapy” if they have earned a doctorate. Current law only permits the licensees to use the term DPT, but not “doctor”. In addition the amendments in the bill will permit licensees to use degrees or professional certifications which they have earned (Attachment #2).

Carolyn Bloom, a physical therapist, supported the legislation allowing therapists to make the public aware of advanced degrees (Attachment #3).

Also speaking in favor of the bill was Erin Hignight, a student at Baker University (Attachment #4), Candy Bahner, Assistant Chair and Director of Clinical Education for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Wichita State University (Attachment #5). Mary Moore, Executive Director of the Kansas Physical Therapy Association presented written testimony stating the intent of the bill's language to allow PT's and PTA's the right to utilize any designations and terms of their education (Attachment #6).

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m. On February 7, 2011 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

Presenting neutral testimony was Dan Morin, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society. Mr. Morin stated that when a doctoral degree is cited among an individual's professional qualifications in any form of advertisement or other patient communication, the field of study for the degree should be specified in order to avoid confusion and/or misrepresentation. He stated the proposed legislation does not mandate disclosure of any title or earned degree and proper usage in written communication should be mandated (Attachment #7).

Written testimony was also presented by Kathleen Selzler Lippert, Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, stating that the language in the proposed legislation may be misleading to the public and create confusion or the opportunity for misrepresentation (Attachment #8).

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2011.