

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on February 5, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Steineger

Committee staff present: Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department
Mr. Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ms. Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary of Health Care Policy
KS Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Mr. John Kiefhaber, Kansas Health Care Association
Representative Nancy Kirk, Representative 56th District
Ms. Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Association of Community
Mental Health Centers of Kansas

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Hearing on SB 120 - adult care homes, admittance requirements for the mentally ill.

Chairperson Wagle opened the meeting by asking Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department, to brief the Committee on the current status of **SB 120**. Highlights of Ms. Correll's overview included page 3 of the bill, and lines 28 through 34 stating no person will be admitted to a nursing facility for mental health unless a qualified mental health professional based upon the PASARR review conducts an evaluation. With that business aside, the Chair called upon the proponents of the bill

Ms. Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary of Health Care Policy in the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) presented the only proponent testimony. Ms. Howard believes this bill ensures that individuals with a mental illness have access to appropriate community-based services in lieu of institutionalization. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment #1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Mr. John Kiefhaber, Kansas Health Care Association, the first of two conferees to give opponent testimony was next to come before the Committee. Mr. Kiefhaber gave a brief history of the Kansas Nursing Facilities/Mental Health (NF/MH) facilities and stated that the bill appears to require a duplication of an authorization for admission to NF/MH facility that is already part of the CARE assessment process in Kansas. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment #2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Representative Nancy Kirk was next to testify that **SB 120** rests on assumptions and ideologies gone astray, of which she provided four examples. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment #3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Ms. Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Director of Policy and Planning, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc., gave neutral testimony to the Committee. She stated that the policy change may have merits but they still have many questions about the implications which she stated. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment #4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

As there was no neutral or written testimony to be presented, the Committee then was able to address the conferees. Questions were asked by Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research and Senators Salmans, Barnett, Praeger, and Wagle of Ms. Laura Howard ranging from inquiring about the numbers dropping (800) for persons residing in NFMH facilities, the screening itself, having personally visited these facilities, to medication management.

With no further discussion, the Chairperson thanked the conferees for their presentations.

Action on SB 50 -elimination of the dental assistant sunset provision.

The next order of business was on SB 50. Senator Harrington made a motion for the passage of SB 50 as amended. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2001.