

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 3:30 p.m. on March 18, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Judy Holliday, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Wichita

Representative Anthony Brown

Ron Nichols, Director of Training, National Center for Fathering

Amos Johnson III, Director Educational Programs, National Center for Fathering

Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department Social and Rehabilitation Services

William DaVitt, Wichita

Richard Morrissey, Interim Director, Division of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator, Kansas Board of Nursing

Written testimony received:

Don Youts, Wichita, KS

Pastor William Vann, Wichita, KS

Norman Williams, Chief of Police for the City of Wichita, KS

Brandon Decker, Park City, Kansas

Chairman Bethell brought before the Committee a draft of **Substitute for HB 2752—An act enacting the geriatric mental health act; establishing a geriatric mental health program administered by the department on aging.**

Representative George moved to accept **Substitute for HB 2752** as drafted, seconded by Representative Ballard.

Chairman Bethell asked the Revisors Office to explain the substitute bill. The only change from the original bill would be identifying who would administer the program, which would be the Department of Aging.

Representative George moved to pass **Substitute for HB 2752** favorably, seconded by Representative Ballard. The motion carried.

Hearing on HB 2965—Fatherhood initiative program; implemented by the department of social and rehabilitation services

Chairman Bethell asked staff from the Revisors Office to explain the intent of the bill and the fiscal impact.

Representative Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Wichita, testified in support of **HB 2965**. (Attachment 1) Representative Faust-Goudeau introduced the bill at the request of a concerned citizen in her district and to embrace the concept of the Fatherhood Initiative program as a model for young men. She testified that the program would provide direction to young fatherless teens and offering to young fathers valuable educational tools to become accountable and responsible tax-paying citizens, and to value life.

Representative Anthony Brown testified as a proponent of **HB 2965**. (Attachment 2) Representative Brown stated that the main effort to collect child support is to get more money for children from delinquent parents, but a side benefit is that parents who are current on child support are more active in a child's life. Many times, young men do not know the proper fatherhood role in the family, and this legislation along with faith based groups can mentor young fathers into positive influences on their children.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Ron Nichols, Director of Training, National Center for Fathering, testified as a proponent of **HB 2965**. ([Attachment 3](#)) Mr. Nichols told the Committee that children of fatherless families are more likely to experience poverty, be incarcerated, do poorly in school, experience more motional and behavioral problems, and be irresponsible as parents. He spoke of a father training class instituted five years ago, conducted by the Intensive Supervision Officer of the 5th Judicial District Community Corrections Department for men in intensive probation and considered high risk by the courts. The result of these classes is that 70 percent or more of these men never go to prison, and that after seeing generations of families in their courtrooms judges refer men to the program because they recognize the need to change those destructive patterns in families.

Amos Johnson III, Director Educational Programs, National Center for Fathering, testified as a proponent of **HB 2965**. ([Attachment 4](#)) Mr. Johnson expressed the belief that every Kansas child needs a father or father figure they can count on, and every Kansas father needs a support system to fulfill his fathering role. In partnering with social service agencies, there is great social and economic value of father involvement in the lives of children.

A Fathering Court was established in Missouri to provide an alternative to incarceration for men in arrears with child support. In ten years, over \$2 million in child support was collected, and the incarceration costs saved totaled \$4.3 million.

Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary of Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), testified as a proponent of **HB 2965**. ([Attachment 5](#)) Ms. Shively stated that SRS already attempts to establish and maintain fatherhood relationships. However, with funding from this bill, early paternity could be established by expanding the existing program for in-hospital paternity acknowledgment. Additional funding would provide a second annual fatherhood summit, expanding parental education and allowing more individuals to participate.

William Davitt, Wichita, testified as a proponent of **HB 2965**. ([Attachment 6](#)) Mr. Davitt cited numerous statistics regarding births outside of marriage, and stated that getting fathers back in the family through a statewide fatherhood program will cost little compared to the millions now spent for social workers and prisons. He further stated that by getting fathers back in the family so they can teach and guide their children away from drugs, crime and gangs, we would be cutting off at the source the flood of young people pouring into our jails and prisons.

The following written only testimony was submitted:

Don Youts, Wichita ([Attachment 7](#))

Pastor William Vann, Wichita ([Attachment 8](#))

Norman Williams, Chief of Police for the City of Wichita ([Attachment 9](#))

Brandon Decker, Park City, Kansas ([Attachment 10](#))

The hearing on **HB 2965** was closed.

Discussions began on **HB 2671--Board of nursing to oversee nurse and medication aides**. The Revisors Office was asked to explain the changes to the bill.

There was discussion on who initiated the bill and if the Board of Nursing and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) were in agreement. Chairman Bethell called on Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator, Board of Nursing, to clarify the Board's position. Ms. Blubaugh reminded the Committee that the bill was introduced four years ago and died in committee. Ms. Blubaugh told the Committee that the Board of Nursing is supported by fees, and the fees collected by KDHE would fund the Board of Nursing's administration of the program. Ms. Blubaugh reiterated that the Board of Nursing is changing software and wants to know before changing it if the bill will pass. The fiscal note to the bill provides that the money taken from KDHE would go to the Board of Nursing.

Representative Mast moved to pass favorably **HB 2671 as amended**, seconded by Representative George. Additional discussion ensued.

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Chairman Bethell called on Richard Morrissey, Interim Director, Division of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), to explain the software database currently administered by the KDHE. Mr. Morrissey stated that the transition from the KDHE to the Board of Nursing would have undetermined front-end costs. He told the Committee that the background checks and fees collected for them would remain with KDHE.

The Committee asked about the delay until 2009 for the Board of Nursing's installation of their software. Ms. Blubaugh responded that they needed to have a smooth transition and needs that time span to complete.

Chairman Bethell brought before the Committee a substitute motion to amend **HB 2671**. The amendment would restore wording on pages 8 and 15.

Representative Mast moved to pass favorably **Substitute for HB 2671** as amended, seconded by Representative George. The motion carried.

The Committee made the recommendation that the language from **Substitute for HB 2671** be inserted into **Sub for SB 309** and that it be passed favorably.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.