

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 7, 2007 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Barbara Ballard- excused
Pat George- excused

Committee staff present:

Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Dick, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Martin Kennedy - Department of Aging
Karla Finnell, Exe. Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Patti Spencer, Grants & Project Officer, Shawnee County Health Agency
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Chris Teilden, PhD, Director, Office of Local and Rural Health

Written Testimony was received from:

Doug Stucky, CFO, Community Health Center of South East Kansas
Dave Sanford., Exe. Director, Grace Med

Others attending:

See attached list.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 by Chairman Bethell.

Hearing in HB 2535 - Department on aging, license fees for adult care homes, state licensure fee fund

The Chair requested an overview of **HB 2535** be given to the Committee by Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department. Department on aging, license fees for adult care homes, state licensure fee fund. Amy Deckard also advised the committee of the fiscal note.

The Chair recognized Martin Kennedy, Department of Aging, as a proponent to **HB 2535**. Mr. Martin stated that **HB 2535** is needed to provide a source of funding for adult care home survey and certification activities in the Licensure, Certification and Evaluation Commission at Kansas Department on Aging. He went on to say that without additional funds, the program would be unable to meet the statutory and contractual obligations. (Attachment 1)

Questions regarding the fees was asked by Rep. Hawk. Mr. Kennedy answered the questions to the Representative satisfaction.

Rep. Mast asked for comments from Mr. Kennedy regarding inspections and attitudes of the inspectors. Mr. Kennedy remarks stated that the surveyors are required to adhere to a set of professional standards that are set out in our policies internally and there is oversight provided to them and the work they do. If there feedback that the surveyors are not operating professionally then there is follow-up on that and then through the personnel process.

Representative Rhoades asked for a clarification on the fees. Mr. Kennedy explained that **HB 2535** would provide a mechanism to provide fee funding for the program instead of being deposited directly to the State General Fund.

The hearing on HB 2535 was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Social Services Budget Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 7, 2007 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

Hearing on HB 2547 - Primary care safety net clinic capital loan guarantee act

Chairman Bethell opened the hearing on **HB 2547** asking Amy Van House, Legislative Research Department to give an overview of the bill for the Committee.

The Chair recognized Karla Finnell, Executive Director for Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved. Ms. Finnell testified as a proponent on **HB 2547**. She stated that a number of primary care safety net clinics have significant capital projects planned in areas of need in terms of primary health care service for medically underserved populations, including dental care.

The purpose of the capital loan guarantee program is to promote the availability long- low-cost conventional financing for the development and renovation of safety net primary care clinics. Such financing will allow primary care clinics to expand their capacity to provide comprehensive primary health care services. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Bethell recognized Patti Spencer, Grants & Project Officer for Shawnee County Health Agency as a proponent for **HB 2547**. She gave testimony on background information on the impact of **HB 2547**. She stated that, "In order to continue serving the needs of our patients we must constantly be implementing the most efficient methods while balancing quality, access and program effectiveness." Ms. Spencer asked for the Committee's support of **HB 2547** as a tool to Kansas' safety net primary care clinics to meet the growing uninsured and under insured medical needs of Kansans. (Attachment 3)

The Chair recognized Diane Gjerstad, representing Wichita Public Schools, who appeared in support of **HB 2547**. Ms. Gjerstad stated that passage of the bill would allow partnerships such as what Wichita's Board of Education is forging. She suggested that the bill become effective on publication in the Register and it would be extremely helpful if the establishment of the act could be expedited to assist other non-profit projects. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Bethell welcomed Chris Tilden, Director of the Office of Local and Rural Health for the Department of Health and Environment. Dr. Tilden provided comments on **HB 2547**, stating that KDHE has the intention to contract with the Kansas Development Finance Authority to assist in the implementation of the proposed bill. (Attachment 5)

Committee was furnished written testimony in favor of **HB 2547** from Dave Sanford, representing GraceMed, (Attachment 6), and Doug Stuckey, on behalf of Community Health Center of South East Kansas (Attachment 7).

Hearing was closed on HB 2547.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th.