

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on February 25, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Schodorf (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Elizabeth McGinness, USD 259, Wichita  
Caren Lowe, Director, East Central Kansas Cooperative  
Christina Mann, WRAP Worker, Baldwin High School  
Diane Fleming, Special Education Coordinator, USD 437  
Garden City  
Julie Meyers, Garden City Area Mental Health Center  
Joyce Cussimano, Executive Director, Children's Cabinet  
Brenda Mills, Family Service & Guidance Center, Topeka

Others attending: See Attached List

### **School Violence Prevention Program/Safe and Caring Communities Grant Projects**

Elizabeth McGinness, Assistant Director Special Education, Wichita Public Schools reported on *Project Wraparound Wichita* (PWW). The Wichita program is in its third year in the district. The two goals of PWW are to reduce the risk of developing violent behavior in the entire school population and provide intensive community mental health services through COMCARE for 30 students diagnosed with a 'severe emotional disturbance'. Wichita is using a program called *Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum* which was proven effective in decreasing student violence and aggressive behavior in a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. ([Attachment 1](#))

Caren Lowe, Director, East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education, presented their program called *Working to Recognize Alternative Possibilities* (WRAP). WRAP is a prevention/early intervention program comprised of a mental health professional working full-time on-site in the public schools. The WRAP program has helped to reduce the number of suspensions, discipline referrals, and absenteeism. Two social workers provide prompt one-to-one interventions and other relevant support services such as anger management training, drug treatment referrals and referrals to community resources for behavioral difficulties. WRAP workers are hired by the mental health center and the school provides space and materials in order to facilitate their availability to students. The strengths of the program include the increased availability of staff to deal with problems before or as they become critical, the collaboration of WRAP workers with community agencies, and the continuance of programs during summer break. ([Attachment 2](#))

Christina Mann, the WRAP worker at Baldwin High School relayed two success stories to the Committee to demonstrate that the program is effective. ([Attachment 3](#))

Diane Fleming, Special Education Coordinator/Area Mental Health Liaison, USD 457, Garden City reported on their program called *Positive Impact Team*. Their goals are to coordinate community and school based behavioral assessment, interventions and referral programs; to enhance protective factors and reduce identified risk factors through the coordination and development of prevention programs for school age youth; and to provide outreach and guidance for parents of all children. Diane shared their guidelines and accomplishments. ([Attachment 4](#)) Julie Meyers is the children's service coordination at the area mental health center and she is one of four case managers that provides direct services to the students in each of the buildings in the Garden City district. Julie & the other three case managers get referrals from

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the school and the case workers go into the school and serve the child at the school. They do individual and small group settings. They deal with all types of issues, such as peer interaction, depression, grief, self-esteem, gang and substance abuse.

Joyce Cussimano, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, addressed the Committee on the School Violence Prevention Program. Joyce provided a handout with information provided to her which shows some of the similarity and measurements the different programs have. Some have benchmarks in place, are outcome based and reliant on data. Others measure output, for example amount of training or services, but didn't measure outcome of the recipients who received the service. (Attachment 5)

Brenda Mills, CEO, Family Service and Guidance Center, Topeka, provided information on Operation Stop Violence which is a collaborative program between USD 501 and Family Service and Guidance Center (FSGC). Operation Stop Violence has had very successful results in their efforts to keep schools and children safe from harm, as well as to help at-risk and violent children to get the help they need. The program is designed to find children who are a potential risk to themselves or to their peers and teachers. Continued funding is needed for this program to continue. (Attachment 6)

Written testimony was provided by Bob Clark, Topeka Public Schools (Attachment 7); Marilyn Cook, Director of Clinical Operations, COMCARE of Sedgwick County, Wichita (Attachment 8); Diane Drake, Executive Director, Franklin County Mental Health Clinic, Inc. Ottawa, Kansas (Attachment 9); and the Kansas Board of Education provided an Evaluation Report for 2000-2001 on School Violence Prevention Grants Wraparound Kansas. (Attachment 10)

### **SB401--Schools; teacher employment incentive and retention bonuses**

**SB401** would authorize unified school districts to pay employment incentive or retention bonuses to teachers. Teachers would be defined as teachers, supervisors, principals, superintendents or any other professional employee who holds a teacher or school administrator certificate. Some districts are utilizing the bonus, but are uncertain if they are doing so legally. The intent of the bill is to clarify the legality of giving the incentive or retention bonuses.

Senator Teichman made a motion to amend **SB401** to make payment of incentive or retention bonuses a part of the negotiating process under the permissible items. Seconded by Senator Oleen. After Committee discussion, the Committee voted and the motion carried.

Senator Corbin made a motion to pass **SB401** favorably as amended with the effective date the Kansas register. Senator Teichman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 2:40 p.m.