

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peggy Mast at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cyndie Rexer, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Becky Topliff, District Court Administrator, Riley County
Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor
Bill Persinger, Executive Director, Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas, Emporia
Sarah Riley-Hansen, Executive Director, Corner House, Inc.
Shirley A. Faulkner, Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on **HB 2209 - Limitations on fees charged to counties and the state.**

Nobuko Folmsbee gave an overview of **HB 2209.**

Representative Tom Hawk gave testimony stating this bill is a different version of a bill from last year. Last year's bill was much broader whereas this version is more specific. (Attachment 1)

Becky Topliff, District Court Administrator, Riley County testified in support of **HB 2209.** It has been her experience that when the Court orders psychiatric and psychological evaluations, the County is charge the premium price for the services. This is an undue hardship on the county taxpayers. (Attachment 2) Discussion followed.

Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor gave testimony on behalf of the Riley County Commission in support of **HB 2209** stating there is a variation in cost when such evaluations are paid for by individuals versus when the same evaluations are court-ordered. (Attachment 3) Discussion followed.

Bill Persinger, Executive Director, Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas, Emporia testified in opposition to **HB 2209** stating that passage of this legislation will deter providers from performing a court ordered psychological evaluation. This law would create a reimbursement structure that is not a reflection of the true cost faced by providers and may make the rates so low that few, if any, providers will be willing to perform the evaluations. (Attachment 4) Discussion followed.

The fiscal note for **HB 2209** states the agency indicates this bill will have no fiscal effect on its operation. (Attachment 5)

The hearing was closed on **HB 2209.**

Chairman Mast welcomed Sarah Riley-Hanson to the committee who gave a history of Corner House, Inc. and spoke of the need for sustained funding. She explained the cost of substance abuse treatment in the US per person per year. Liquor tax funds is used to fund local social detox. She also spoke in regards to the FY 2010 budget implications. (Attachment 6) Discussion followed.

Chairman Mast welcomed Shirley Faulkner, a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, who spoke on how a person's brain works causing them to be addicts and the level 1 treatment provided by Prairie View, Inc. She has been soliciting funds from city and county governments to fund the program due to cuts from the state. She spoke on current trends of rationed care and wait lists due to lack of adequate funding. The wait for services currently is approximately 4 months. (Attachment 7) Discussion followed. The committee reviewed the committee report on SRS and made additional recommendations.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Social Services Budget Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 05:30 p.m.