

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Pilcher-Cook at 1:39pm on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department
Melissa Calderwood-Renick, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Allen Frances, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University, Former Chairperson of the DSM-IV Task Force and of the Department of Psychiatry at Duke University School of Medicine; author of "Saving Normal"

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

DSM-V Informational Hearing

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the informational hearing on the Diagnostic Statistical Manual for Mental Illness (DSM) by introducing Dr. Allen Frances who testified via Skype. Chairperson Pilcher-Cook stated that Dr. Frances was the Chairman of the Committee that put the DSM-IV together and was also very involved in the DSM-III.

Dr. Allen Frances gave a brief overview of psychiatry. He stated that we're over-treating people with the problems of everyday life. Dr. Frances indicated that approximately 20% of the general population takes a psychiatric medication on a regular basis. Dr. Frances stated that we have a situation in which we're terribly neglecting the people who really need help, and we're allowing the massive over-treatment of people who are more harmed than helped by that over-treatment. Dr. Frances stated that the diagnostic system has contributed to the problem in so far as it has increased the attention to milder and milder problems.

Dr. Frances next gave a history of the DSM stating that they began working on the DSM-IV almost 30 years ago. He indicated that their goal was to stabilize the diagnostic system and reduce what he already considered to be over-diagnoses. Dr. Frances indicated that his critique of DSM-V is that it had the opposite approach about diagnoses; that it proposed and actually included some that he believes will cause more harm than good. No written testimony was provided.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare at 1:39pm on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 in Room 118-N of the Capitol.

After questions from the committee were answered, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2016.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.