

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael O'Donnell at 1:32pm on Monday, February 15, 2016, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Susan Wagle – Excused

Committee staff present:
Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department
Kyle Hamilton, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Max L. Foster, Jr., Executive Director, Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB)
Steve Denny, Chair, Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP)
Deborah Stidham, Director, Addiction Treatment Services, Johnson County Mental Health Center
Cynthia Schendel, LCSW, President, Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers (KNASW)
Sky Westerlund, LMSW, Executive Director, KNASW, presenting for Tim Davis, PhD, LCSW

Others in attendance:
[See Attached List](#)

Informational hearing: SB449 — Behavioral sciences regulatory board amendments.

Chairperson O'Donnell opened the informational hearing on **SB449**. Scott Abbott, staff revisor, presented a briefing of the bill indicating that **SB449** is an update of **SB254--Behavioral sciences regulatory board; licensure of professions** from last year.

Max Foster, BSRB, testified in support of **SB449**. Mr. Foster indicated that he included a table in his written testimony that gives a comparison between **SB254** and **SB449**. Mr. Foster highlighted the differences between the two bills. ([Attachment 1](#))

Steve Denny, KAAP, testified in support of **SB449** indicating that he would be limiting his remarks to the proposed changes for addiction counselors. Mr. Denny indicated that KAAP supports the BSRB's efforts to improve and clarify the statutory language for the professions. Mr. Denny stated that KAAP also supports the amended language regarding reciprocity. ([Attachment 2](#))

Deborah Stidham, Johnson County Mental Health Center, testified in support of **SB449**. Ms. Stidham

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indicated that the addition of the Licensed Master's Addiction Counselor level of licensure is very important to their field allowing for expanded capacity and improving the quality of services that are offered across the state. ([Attachment 3](#))

Cynthia Schendel, KNASW, testified in opposition of **SB449** in its current form. Ms. Schendel indicated that KNASW's opposition can be overcome by making two amendments to the bill. Ms. Schendel described those amendments which are included in her written testimony. ([Attachment 4](#))

Sky Westerlund, KNASW, representing Dr. Tim Davis, testified in opposition to **SB449** by highlighting portions of Mr. Davis' written testimony. ([Attachment 5](#))

Written testimony in support of **SB449** was submitted by:
Kris Burkholder, Kansas Counseling Association (KCA) President and Andrew Secor, KCA Legislative and Advocacy Chair ([Attachment 6](#))

After questions by the Committee were addressed, Chairperson O'Donnell closed the informational hearing on **SB449**.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2016.