

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:40 A.M. on February 19, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Donald Betts- excused  
Senator Vicki Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes  
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means  
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Stephen Feinstein, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Mental Health Parity Task Force

Others attending:

See attached list.

### **Bill Introductions**

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to introduce the Governor's Budget Bills, appropriations for FY2008 and FY2009 for state agencies; appropriations for FY2007 for various state agencies and appropriations for FY2008 and FY2009 for capital improvements for various state agencies. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Copies of the Kansas Legislative Research Department Budget Analysis report for FY 2007 and FY 2008 were available to the committee.

### **Subcommittee reports on:**

#### **Kansas Department of Commerce (Attachment 1).**

Subcommittee Chair David Wysong reported that the subcommittee on the Kansas Department of Commerce concurs with the Governor's recommendation in FY 2007 and concurs with the Governor's FY 2008 recommendation with adjustments. A Minority Report was submitted by Senator Betts with the subcommittee budget report.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator McGinn, to amend the subcommittee report to remove recommended funding for seven vehicles in FY 2008 for consideration at Omnibus. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator McGinn moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Kansas Department of Commerce in FY 2007 and as amended in FY 2008. Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### **Kansas, Inc.**

#### **Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (Attachment 2)**

Subcommittee Chair David Wysong reported that the subcommittee on Kansas, Inc., concurs with the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Governor's recommendation in FY 2007 and concurs with the Governor's FY 2008 recommendation with adjustments.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on Kansas, Inc., in FY 2007 and FY 2008. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Subcommittee Chair David Wysong reported that the subcommittee on Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) concurs with the Governor's recommendation in FY 2007 with adjustment and concurs with the Governor's FY 2008 recommendation with adjustments.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) in FY 2007 and FY 2008. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Dr. Steve Feinstein, Co-Chair, Mental Health Parity Task Force, who presented a briefing on the report (Attachment 3). Also present was Dr. Ira Stamm, Co-Chair of the Task Force. Copies of the Mental Health Parity Task Force Executive Summary were distributed to the Committee (Attachment 4).

Dr. Feinstein explained that the Task Force Mission was to study the barriers to coverage in a state-regulated insurance plan that exists under the current mental health parity law. He also noted that parity is based on the assumption that mental disorders and physical disorders are only different in the way that they are experienced.

The following information was addressed in the briefing:

- Why parity is important.
- Why the disparity between insurance coverage for mental vs. physical disorders.
- Barriers to achieving the intent of the current statutes.
- Task Force recommendations regarding amendments to the statutes.
- Task Force recommendations regarding regulations.

Committee questions and discussion followed.

Senator Barone moved, with a second by Senator Steineger, to introduce a conceptual bill to deal with the Task Force Recommendations contained in the Mental Health Parity Task Force Report. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger asked that Senator Teichman, Senator McGinn, Senator Barone, Revisor and Legislative Research Staff work together regarding the conceptual bill.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2007.