

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on February 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Chris Steineger- excused  
Senator David Haley- excused  
Senator Karin Brownlee- excused  
Senator Phil Journey- excused

Committee staff present:

Ma. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research  
Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Mrs. Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes  
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ms. Janet Schalansky, Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)

Others attending:

Please See Attached List.

### **Overview of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)**

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle introduced, Ms. Janet Schlansky, Secretary of SRS, who presented an overview of her department. A copy of her presentation is ([Attachment 1](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Highlights included:

- 1) introductions of new staff (replacing three who had moved to other jobs);
- 2) how dollars are spent:
  - a) expenditures by category (ex. the largest being direct medical assistance at \$1,218.9);
  - b) by revenue source (60% coming from federal funding);
  - c) a summary of expenditures by fiscal years 2002 & 2003 (ex. Adoption subsidy & foster care - more children are being adopted so foster care is down, but with food assistance, they are still not serving over 43% of the people needing this.);
  - d) a summary of persons assisted (ex. In year comparison, out of the 12 services, only four had lower numbers than the previous year);
- 3) expenditures of consensus caseloads, which are cash assisted, and other caseloads, which are not:
  - a) all are increasing by about 9% and the cost driver is utilization (ex. More prescriptions & their costs and longer hospital stays);
  - b) no federal welfare program for families are available if you are disabled or if there are no children;
- 4) federal poverty levels: she offered the programs SRS provide and their guidelines;
- 5) their service redesign project :
  - a) 30 offices already closed in Kansas, 20 to close this year, leaving between 40-45 offices as to the 105 county offices they had, and still have over 700 positions vacant;
  - b) management areas are downsizing from 11 to 7 by the end of June this year, and next year will be down to 6;
  - c) developed over 400 access points, toll free numbers for phones and faxes; on-line applications (one of the 400 access points is the Library for those who do not have access to computers), and
  - d) the federal government changing rules so not requiring face-to-face meetings.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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6) a quick reference of the Governor's budget recommendations (ex. Restored the Protection Reporting Center and new funds to establish the Assistive Technology revolving Load program, which are matching funds to provide loans to assist persons with disabilities in accessing assistive technology.)

7) highlights of SRS changes in the Governor's budget recommendations including additional funding for the Sexual Predator Treatment Program and the replacement of the Intergovernmental Transfer funds;

8) pieces of legislation introduced including child welfare tuition program (to be introduced 2-4-04) and access to the adult abuse registry for purposes of employment; and lastly,

9) ongoing issues including assessing the future of state hospitals, increased scrutiny from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and working with other state agencies to reduce redundancies.

The Chair thanked Ms. Schlansky for her overview and asked the Committee for questions. Senator Barnett asked what the total funds were for the year 2004, what is the state paying in Medicaid nursing home costs this year, regarding the program that was institutionalized two years ago with the prescription changing formulary, how much are we cost avoiding, and lastly he commented how we are all interested in school consolidation and saving money and mentioning how Ms. Schlansky called it redesigning, he asked their secret on how they got this done. Senator Wagle followed by asking for a clarification of the 72 full time employment positions in the Sexual Predator Treatment Center and 109 residents and how many people were they serving in this program altogether. She also asked for more information on this program.

### **Introduction of Bills**

The Chair then announced that she would like to introduce legislation for Ms Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, concerning the board and relating to disciplinary authority amending six statutes, repealing existing sections and repealing three statutes. Senator Barnett made the motion to introduce this legislation. It was seconded by Senator Jordan and the motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of January 27, 28, and 29, 2004 were distributed to each Committee member. The Chair asked that they notify Ms. Cianciarulo with their comments and if none are received by the end of the day Friday, February 6, 2004 they would stand approved.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2004.