

# KANSAS BARBERS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION (KBLA)

December 9, 2016

TO: Special Committee in Organization of Public Health Boards

FROM: Kansas Barbers for Legislative Action

RE: Response to Recommendations of Alvarez and Marsal Kansas Statewide Efficiency Review

Chairman and Members of the Committee...Thank you for allowing us to speak today. We represent Kansas Barbers. With the understanding that there is significant pressure to reduce State spending and lessen the current deficit, and the realization that it would be of little or no benefit to the Kansas consumers, we are opposed to the changes recommended by the Alvarez and Marsal study.

Agencies are in place to effectively represent their respective licensees in regard to interaction with and protection of the public and consumers. Each agency is tasked with operating within a budget that is monitored by its Board, and constrained by the fees it receives from its professionals. That is the system meant to ensure that all aspects of education, compliance, regulation and statutory guidelines are kept in line with professional advances and trends.

The Board of Barbering is responsible for testing examinees on live models, with the inclusion of a razor shave. Some of this is conducted inside maximum and medium security facilities. This is not something that could be effectively tasked out to another entity.

Three states mentioned in the A&M study also appear to have significant difficulties with timeliness and streamlined information and/or accurate responsiveness.

With that being understood, the Alvarez and Marsal study recommends THREE ADDITIONAL committees be established with the objective of them being "Task Forces" for these agencies.

- What tasks are being neglected by the current system to make these Committees necessary?
- How will another layer of Upper Management be more efficient?
- 6 NEW Upper level government positions cannot possibly "Save" money, or make an agency more efficient.

It is the understanding of the KBLA, that each of the proposed Committees are to be led by one Representative chosen by the Governor, and one chosen by the Legislature.

- Money being used by agencies to fund operations currently, would be redirected to fund these new Committee heads. The State saves money, and forces these agencies to spend their own.
- It is also proposed to “EMPLOY LEAN STAFFING” to ensure the budget isn’t “OVERLY BURDENSOME”. So are we to believe it ideally will manage at a level of Merely Burdensome?
- The configuration of this “Lean” Staffing is to employ NO OR LIMITED PERMANENT FULL TIME EMPLOYEES. Is this a polite way of saying they are opposed to funding the benefits of Full Time Permanent employees?

So in Summary, the proposed advice to this Contracted Problem-Solving Mission is to

- ESTABLISH, ARRANGE, AND IMPLEMENT THREE MORE COMMITTEES
  - Still More hearings to determine which committee those boards that may have alliances with more than one potential committee will be assigned to
- SELECT AND HIRE SIX REPRESENTATIVES
  - These Representatives will be given how much authority in the Decision making process that allows each board to operate individually?
  - How can each agency be confident their interests are being given equal consideration in a mixture of perhaps better funded, or politically-leveraged agencies?
  - Will legislation be initiated without approval from each Board or agency that will be affected at any time?
  - It becomes oversight without coalition within the agency and it’s leading committee.
- EMPLOY MORE STAFF THAT WILL NOT BE PERMANENT, OR FULL-TIME.
  - To an agency, this would translate to untrained personnel representing the State of Kansas to the public. To lower this standard serves no good public service. This undoes every effort each agency has in place to provide BETTER customer service.
  - These employees are not agency specific, so the time it would consume to seek information to respond to inquiries would be expanded exponentially. This is absolutely contrary to a professional agency’s mission.
  - Because those employees are acquiring no vested interest, benefits, or retirement, their level of dedication to the task may be questionable.
- REMOVE MONEY FROM THE AGENCIES CURRENTLY OPERATING WITHIN THEIR BUDGET AS ALLOWED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

- Agencies are tasked to keep to budget, but then asked to pay for something no agency sees a need or desire to have?
- CONDUCT A FURTHER EXPANDED STUDY TO DETERMINE INCLUSION TO THE NEW COMMITTEES
  - How Will THIS Study be funded?
  - What will happen if it is determined we need still more committees?
  - It is pointless to continue the process we are currently undergoing to consider the committees these agencies are already opposed to.