

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on March 8, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
 Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
 Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
 JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Debra Zehr, Vice President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Joseph F. Kroll, Director, Bureau of Health Facilities, KDHE
Bill Henry, representing the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging
Anne Spiess, representing the Alzheimer's Association
Kerrie Ruhlman, Executive Director, Kansas Professional Nursing Home Administrators Assn.
Jane Rhys, Executive Director, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
Linda Lubensky, Kansas Home Care Association
Jolene Grabill, representing the Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing on HB 2780 - Establishing a task force on long-term care services

Debra Zehr, Vice President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, testified before the Committee in support of **HB 2780** which would establish a task force on long-term care services. Ms. Zehr offered amendments that would delete language relating to the study of the implementation and operation of recent statutory changes relating to adult care home licensure and the ombudsman program that had been studied in depth by a 1998 task force, add language that would examine the relationship between state agencies and long-term care providers, expand the number of provider representatives from three to four, and increase the life of the task force to at least two years in order to ensure adequate time to study complete issues and develop sound recommendations. (Attachment 1) Ms. Zehr also distributed a letter to the Committee from Randy Fitzgerald, Chairman of KAHSA and Chairman of the 1998 Task Force on Long-term Care in support of the bill and the amendments offered by Ms. Zehr. (Attachment 2)

Other conferees who appeared before the Committee in support of **HB 2780** were: Joseph F. Kroll, Director, Bureau of Health Facilities, KDHE, who expressed his support for the bill and the inclusion of the Department of Health and Environment designee as a member of the task force, (Attachment 3); Bill Henry, representing the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging requested that a representative of AAA be included as a member of the task force, (Attachment 4); Anne Spiess, representing the Alzheimer's Association, requested that issues relating to Alzheimer's disease be studied by the task force along with a representative of the Alzheimer's Association be a member of the task force, and that the task force be extended for a longer period of time than one year, (Attachment 5); Kerrie Ruhlman, Executive Director, Kansas Professional Nursing Home Administrators Association, expressed her membership's support for the implementation of the task force, (Attachment 6); Jane Rhys, Executive Director, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, expressed her support for the bill and task force that would study developmentally disabled concerns, (Attachment 7); Linda Lubensky, Kansas Home Care Association, expressed her support for an on-going task force to look at issues relating to the escalating number of individuals who qualify for and seek long-term care services while monetary and physical resources decline, (Attachment 8); and Jolene Grabill, representing the Kansas Advocates for Better Care, expressed her support for the task force which would include at least three consumers or consumer representatives. (Attachment 9) It was suggested during Committee discussion that the long-term care task force be in existence for more than one year, and that they explore creative and common sense ideas beneficial to the problems relating to long-term care.

There were no opponents to **HB 2780**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Room 526-S, Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m. on March 8, 2000.

Briefing on Expedited Service Delivery

Catherine Walberg, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging, briefed the Committee on Expedited Service Delivery and further explanation of issues that arose during hearings on **SB 372**. (Attachment 10) Concern was expressed by a member of the Committee regarding the waiting period for services for the elderly and contradictory information provided by the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare and the Department on Aging. The Chair noted that SRS would be asked to provide the Committee with the process to determine financial eligibility.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2000.