

Approved: January 26, 2005
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 1:30 P.M. on January 25, 2005 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman announced that an e-mail sign-up sheet would be circulated for using Instant Messaging in the committee.

The minutes for January 20 were approved by motion, second, and unanimous vote.

The Chair welcomed Representative Jim Yonally, who requested the committee sponsor a bill requiring hospitals to report hospital-infection rates. A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the bill.

Representative Bob Bethell requested a committee bill regarding pain management. He said often physicians, fearing a patient may become addicted, are hesitant to prescribe adequate medication to alleviate pain. By motion, second, and unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Representative Bob Bethell also requested the committee sponsor a bill to ban medications imported from any country outside the United States into the state of Kansas. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to sponsor the bill.

Martin Kennedy, Director of Budget and Government Affairs, Kansas Department of Aging, requested the committee sponsor a bill to expand the scope of the Senior Care Act to allow in-home preventive health services. By motion, second and vote, the committee agreed to sponsor the bill.

Representative Mario Goico, concerned with the rising cost of health care, requested the committee sponsor a bill to grant a sales-tax exemption to health and fitness clubs, thus encouraging individuals to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles. A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor the bill.

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MINUTES OF THE House Health and Human Services Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 25, 2005 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), provided an overview of the work of the agency. ([Attachment 1](#)) Stating that the agency's mission statement is to protect children and promote adult self-sufficiency, he outlined the divisions of the agency: Health Care Policy, Integrated Service Delivery, and Administration.

Commenting on the areas of Health Care Policy (Addiction Services, Community Supports, Medicaid, Mental Health, State Hospitals), Mr. Daniels noted that, in FY 2004, almost 75% of the Medicaid expenditures go to the aged and disabled, whereas the aged and disabled make up only 21% of the beneficiaries; conversely, family medical expenses are 20% of the Medicaid budget, but they make up 70% of those receiving benefits. Regarding the two state developmental disability hospitals, he said that the institution in Topeka cares for those who are medically fragile; those in Parsons are medically fragile with psychiatric disabilities. He commented that before SRS was reorganized, an office was maintained in each county; after reorganization, many of the area offices were closed, but the number of access points was increased. Further, SRS staff now make more home visits, making services more widely available.

Mr. Daniels outlined those who receive public assistance: cash assistance to individuals (average \$160 per month), cash assistance to families (average \$316), child-care assistance (average \$506), and household food assistance (previously food stamps, average \$257). He noted that 87% of those receiving assistance are participants in a work program. He stated that, in supporting the welfare and safety of children, SRS investigates 43,000 reports of abuse or neglect; the agency also in FY 2004 investigated 6124 reports of abuse or neglect of adults. He noted that the agency in FY 2004 collected \$152 million in delinquent child support payments, 75% of which was channeled to the appropriate families.

Mr. Daniels said that the reorganization of the agency, which will become effective in July 2005 when SRS becomes the Kansas Department of Human Services, will more than double direct services delivery. He listed seven proposals for the attention of the 2005 Kansas Legislature:

- A process for reviewing prescription drugs (**HB 2107**);
- Support for the Children to Support our Future Act;
- Sharing forensic mental health records;
- Expand access to Kansas Bureau of Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation records, access to which includes background checks for SRS employment;
- Reporting abuse, neglect or exploitation;
- Injunctive authority for unlicensed facilities; and
- Maintaining Families and Supporting Older Youth Act.

Members asked questions regarding SRS activities and policies, which were answered by SRS staff:

- Laura Howard, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Policy, said that the agency is seeking to follow up on the House Appropriations proviso regarding technology-dependent individuals who "age out" of services in an attempt to provide continuity for them.
- Candace Shively, Deputy Secretary, said that regarding Child In Need of Care (CINC) cases, the foster

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care component is directed by private contractors; however, SRS has a set of quality-assurance protocols that contractors must follow. SRS does the initial CINC investigation; a court decides whether to remove the child from the home; if removal occurs, the case is turned over to a contractor. SRS monitors the contractor by requiring a set of outcomes for each case.

- Ms. Howard said that SRS receives about \$100,000 each year to help deal with gambling addiction; SRS also provides a gambling hotline and counselors. The specific expenses can be seen by examining the budget details.
- Ms. Shively said she did not think child-support enforcement statutes applied to a parent whose parental rights had been severed.
- Ms. Shively said SRS sometimes provides commodities to schools to expand their meal offerings, but does not provide meals.
- The welfare-to-work program does not support four-year college programs. A member commented that it seemed illogical to remove a college student from college education support, where he/she might eventually be employed at a salary that could support his/her family, and then require the person to enroll in a work-study program that would likely produce a much lower wage for the person.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 526-S.