

Approved: February 14, 2012
(January 26, 2012)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Kiegerl at 9:02 a.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2012, in Room 142 of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Brunk - Excused

Committee staff present:
June Christensen, Committee Assistant
Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Kansas Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Brenda Sharpe, President and CEO, REACH Healthcare Foundation
Suzanne Wikle, Director of Policy and Research, Kansas Action for Children

Others in attendance:
See attached list.

Chairman Kiegerl introduced Ms. Brenda Sharpe, President and CEO of Reach Healthcare Foundation and Ms. Suzanne Wikle, Director of Policy and Research, Kansas Action for Children, conferees at today's meeting.

PRESENTATION BY REACH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION–

Ms. Sharpe spoke about the REACH Healthcare Foundation, established in 2003, to improve the health of poor and medically underserved persons. The six-county area includes Allen, Johnson, and Wyandotte counties and three Missouri counties. REACH helped support a Legislative project to establish dental “hubs” in eight counties that then provide “spokes” in 74 Kansas counties. Payments come from Medicaid and HealthWave and other third-party insurers, which allows the program to be self-sustaining. There is an urgent concern today regarding oral health care for both adults and children, and a proposal to establish a dental mid-level professional, a Registered Dental Practitioner (RDP), that will offer a safe, practical approach for adequate dental care. REACH Foundation will host 27 health foundations interested in this project, as

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Kansas is unique in having this program. REACH supports this and will welcome any opportunity to inform others about it. (Attachment 1).

PRESENTATION BY KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN–

Ms. Wikle informed the committee that the Children and Families Committee is composed of three organizations—Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, and Kansas Health Consumer Coalition. The primary purpose of the committee is to provide timely and affordable dental care, which is a top concern, particularly for children whose greatest health issue is that of dental care. They are proposing implementation of a mid-level dental provider, which would be a Registered Dental Practitioner (RDP), and would address the shortage of dental providers, most commonly in rural and underserved areas of Kansas. RDPs would have three-to-four years of training, pass a clinical examination prior to licensing, and would work under direct or general supervision of a dentist. They would be treating children in school or after-school settings, seniors in nursing homes, and small towns where there is considerable distance to travel for routine dental care. This would be similar to the implementation of registered nurse practitioners that the Legislature addressed some years ago and which has proved to be very successful. Issues of patient safety have been addressed, and she assured the committee that other countries and Alaska and Minnesota have been using these models for several years. There have been no cases of inadequate or harmful care to recipients. Not only will it help the citizens, it will provide jobs for Kansans. She requested the committee's support for **SB 192–Kansas dental board; licensure of dental practitioners** and **HB 2280–Kansas dental board; licensure of dental practitioners**, that were heard during the 2011 Session and were supported by dentists, the Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association, and other advocacy organizations. (Attachment 2).

Committee members asked questions regarding how well the programs in Alaska and Minnesota were doing and where training would take place. Chairman Kiegerl expressed concern that services for which the RDPs might not be trained for could be harmful if they did procedures for which they weren't adequately trained.

Chairperson Kiegerl thanked the conferees for a comprehensive overview.

Chairman Kiegerl introduced Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department, who reported that Representative Brenda Landwehr will be holding a round-table discussion on this subject tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in the old Supreme Court Room.

Representative Kiegerl said future meetings will address the reorganization of Social Rehabilitation Services programs and procedures for foster care adoption services. Hearings will be held next week on the bills introduced at Tuesday's meeting.

Representative Gregory distributed copies of a United Methodist Youthville report presented earlier this year. (Attachment 3).

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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Representative Miller-McCray requested an update on the SRS audit on specific foster care cases, which was to be ready by February 1. She also requested a review of the entire system that deals with the contractors, which will take to the end of the session. She would like to find out where the \$174 million dollars that was spent came from.

Representative Rubin requested a report on how SRS changed the method of food stamp calculations and a review of immigrant workers who have children that are U.S. citizens. Chairman Kiegerl said he had spoken with the Governor regarding this and an article in the *Kansas City Star*, which was not entirely accurate, and will provide a response when the administration review is complete.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 9 a.m., Room 142S.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.