

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 1:48 p.m. on March 8, 2004, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Brenda Landwehr- excused
Representative Tom Holland- excused
Representative Willa DeCastro- excused
Representative Joe McLeland -excused

Committee staff present:

Dr. William Wolff, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Linda Kenney, Director, Bureau for Children, Youth and Families, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Norm Hess, Director of Program Services, March of Dimes Greater Kansas Chapter
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
Chris Collins, Director of Governmental Affairs and Associate General Counsel, Kansas Medical Society

Others attending:

See Attached List.

The Committee Minutes for 3-4-04 were approved as printed.

The Vice-Chair opened the hearing on [SB 418](#), a bill which creates a birth defects information system. Linda Kenney, Director, Bureau for Children, Youth and Families, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), testified as a proponent for the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)) She said that birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality in Kansas, contribute to long-term disability, and are the cause of 30% of admissions to pediatric hospitals, noting that surveillance is a critical component in reducing the impact of this health problem. She said such a system would link program and service needs to surveillance findings, stating that if the bill passes, KDHE will attempt to find alternative sources of funding to minimize the use of State General Funds. Answering questions, Ms. Kenney said the project provides the statutory basis needed to seek federal funds through the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Norm Hess, Director of Program Services, March of Dimes Greater Kansas Chapter, spoke in favor of the bill, saying that a statewide birth defects information system would more effectively identify the needs for service and treatment of the 1200-1500 babies born annually in Kansas with a major birth defect, noting that birth defects are not always identified on the present vital statistics form. ([Attachment 2](#)) He said CDC funding for such systems is expected to continue and that 35 states currently receive funding through cooperative agreements with the CDC. He said the bill contains appropriate measures to protect

CONTINUATION SHEET

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the confidentiality of children and families.

Doug Bowman, staff member for the Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, spoke as a proponent, saying that anecdotal information regarding localized regions where one kind of disability or another is found in disproportionate frequency could be verified with the system proposed by the bill. ([Attachment 3](#))

Chris Collins, Legislative Director, Kansas Medical Society, said the Society had surveyed the language of the bill and has some concerns that, because the registry grants KDHE access to medical records, some of which might be sensitive, she suggested the Committee make certain that these records under KDHE control not be available to any other party. She said she would have an amendment available by the end of the day. (The amendment is included in the testimony as [Attachment 5](#) and [Attachment 6](#).)

The hearing for **SB 418** was closed.

The Vice-Chair opened the hearing on [SB 511](#), which establishes a screening process for newborn infants for hearing loss.

Linda Kenney testified in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 4](#)) She said the bill came about at the direction of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations to amend the Newborn Hearing Screening Law (**K.S.A. 65-1,157a**) to provide statutory authority for the Secretary to carry out the screening program in the proposed newborn hearing screening rules and regulations.

The hearing on **SB 511** was closed.

Staff Bill Wolff gave a briefing on [SB 453](#), which exempts educational institutions from child care facility regulations. He said the bill exempts school districts from the child-care licensure laws if they annually certify that the child-care facilities or program meets the fire and building codes, has no students under age 3, is supervised by a certificated teacher or administrator, conducts criminal background checks on all staff members, and is offered at a site owned or leased by the school district.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.