

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Morrison at 1:30 p.m. on February 6, 2003, in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Landwehr and Holland.

Committee staff present:

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Janette Delinger, President, Kansas Dental Hygienists Association
Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association
Joyce Volmut, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved

Others attending: See Guest List.

By motion, second, and unanimous vote the minutes for the February 4 meeting were approved.

For purposes of hearing **HB 2155**, Representative Patterson chaired the meeting.

Janette Delinger, President of the Kansas Dental Hygienists Association, spoke in support of **HB 2155**. (Attachment 1) She said the bill was created specifically for the "Mission of Mercy" (MOM) sponsored by the Kansas Dental Association, which will provide dental services to 1500-2000 individuals on February 14-16 in Garden City.

Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association, representing 80% of Kansas dentists, gave further details about KMOM. (Attachment 2) He noted that after hearing the briefing yesterday, he intends to work with staff to make the language consistent between the two areas of the statutes. Mr. Robertson said the intent of the bill is to create a 14-day permit for licensed out-of-state dentists and hygienists to provide dental care to indigent Kansans at the Finney County Fairgrounds. He said the concept of a free dental clinic was begun in Virginia two years ago, the Virginia legislature passing legislation similar to **HB 2155** to facilitate dental services; he noted that the Finney County endeavor will include 45 dental chairs, interpreters, meals, and the assistance of church groups. With the passage of **HB 2155**, he said colleagues in Oklahoma, Nebraska and Colorado could be involved to make the event regional.

Representatives Bethell, Storm, and Sharp commended the Dental Association for this service. Mr. Robertson said the membership was energized over this project more than any other in recent memory. Representative Sharp observed that 40 translators speaking 8 different languages would be on hand for the event. Answering a question, Mr. Robertson said that emergency medical services would be on site

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE at on February 6, 2003, in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

during the event.

Joyce Volmut, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, spoke in support of the bill. (Attachment 3) She commended the KDA for offering this service to those without access to dental care.

Staff Bill Wolff observed that the conflict between the wording of the charitable health care statutes and the dental statutes could be satisfactorily reconciled.

Representative Patterson as Chair closed the hearing for **HB 2155**.

Chairman Morrison announced further bill hearings for the coming week. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, a joint meeting with the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, in 243-N.