

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGING & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 9:04 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Katherine McBride, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Gordon Self, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Craig Callahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Linda Martin, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Craig Kaberline, Executive Director, Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Assoc. (KAAAA)
Rob Siedlecki, Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Belinda Vierthaler, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introduction

Representative Wolf moved, Representative Hill seconded, that the unused and unopened medication act include the Veteran's Administration. Motion carried.

Chairman Bethell called on the conferees to give an overview of their agency/organization:

Craig Kaberline provided an overview of his organization and reviewed the community services they provide: housing and in-home meals among others. He stated that if Medicaid has cuts there will be a waiting list beginning in February for community based services. (Attachment 1)

Rob Siedlecki the new Secretary of SRS was accompanied by Gary Haulmark, Legislative Director and Jeff Kahrs, Chief of Staff. Secretary Siedlecki spoke about new initiatives at SRS which include Medicaid reform, the Healthy Marriage Initiative (which will review disincentives to marriage in existing programs), an adoption initiative, and outreach to faith-based community organizations. (Attachment 2)

Representative Schwab asked if a digital recording of the presentation could be provided. Secretary Siedlecki stated there would be one.

Belinda Vierthaler explained that the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living centers, among others. A volunteer from the Ombudsman's office receives complaints from residents.

Representative Wolfe Moore asked if the complaints were confidential. Ms. Vierthaler replied that they were unless a social worker contacts the Ombudsman in which case the facility staff would know.

There are 9 Ombudsman regions in Kansas and these regions are based on the number of providers.

Recently the Ombudsman's office has had to provide assessments and education on sexual predators.

Representative Otto asked what happens when a nursing facility goes bankrupt. Ms. Vierthaler replied that there is a transition process in place to assist the residents but there haven't been many closures in Kansas. (Attachment 3)

Representative Hill and Representative Gonzalez introduced their Pages.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.