

Approved: March 27, 2012

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 1:00 p.m. on March 29, 2012 in Room 524-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Laura Kelly, excused
Senator David Haley, excused
Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook, excused

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Renaee Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Long, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Barbara Hickert, Long-term Care Ombudsman

Others attending:

See attached list.

The chair opened the confirmation hearing for Barbara Hickert as the Long-term Care Ombudsman (Attachment #1). Ms. Hickert was welcomed to the committee and addressed members, giving a brief background of her credentials and expressing what she felt she could contribute in her role as Ombudsman. She also shared with the committee that she had prepared a letter of resignation from her current position to follow her confirmation (Attachment #2). She stressed that strengthening the core of the program, which was advocacy, would be her primary objective. She is looking forward to the opportunity to be an advocate for the well being, safety and rights of the long-term population. *It was moved by Senator Kelsey, seconded by Senator Brungardt to recommend unanimously the confirmation of Barbara Hickert as the Long-term Care Ombudsman. Motion carried.*

Written testimony was submitted by the following:

Maren Turner, AARP (Attachment #3)
Debra Harmon Zehr, Leading Age Kansas (Attachment #4)
Brian Lee, Families for Better Care (Attachment #5)
Mitzi McFatrigh, Kansas Advocates for Better Care (Attachment #6)
Kate Ricks, Voices for Quality Care (Attachment #7)

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. There are no further meetings scheduled.