

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGING & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 9:00 am. on February 8, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except :

Representative Scott Schwab - absent

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
Evelyn Walters, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jim Snyder, Kansas Silver Haired Legislature
Rick Cagan, Executive Director, NAMI/Kansas
Craig Kaberline, KS Area Agency on Aging Assn.
Mitzi McFatrach, KS Advocates for Better Care
Sky Westerlund, KS Chapter of National Assn of Social Workers
Amy Campbell, KS Mental Health Coalition
Debbie Holroyd, Alzheimer's Assn.
Steve Denny, Four Counties Mental Health Center
Don Strong, Mid KS Senior Outreach
Ernest Kutzley, AARP
Michelle Sweeney, Assn. Of Community Health Centers of KS, Inc.
Joe Ewert, KAHSA
Michelle Niedens, Alzheimer's Assn., Heart of America Chapter

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on:

HB 2047 – Enacting the geriatric mental health act

Proponents:

Jim Snyder, speaker for Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, spoke in strong support of the program and it's need for the elderly constituents. (Attachment 1) Mr. Snyder also presented past testimony of Bryce Miller. (Attachment 2).

Rick Cagan, Executive Director of NAMI Kansas, spoke in support of the bill and need to provide greater focus in the provision of mental health services to the elderly. (Attachment 3).

Questions were asked by Representative Weber, Representative Moore, Representative Worley, and Chairman Bethell.

Craig Kaberline, Executive Director, KS Area Agency on Aging Assn., spoke in support of the need of this bill to address improve the quality of life for elderly in Kansas and to reduce health care and the costs of premature nursing home placement. (Attachment 4). A question was asked by Representative Weber.

Mitzi McFatrach, KS Advocates for Better Care, spoke in strong support of this bill. (Attachment 5).

Sky Westerlund, National Assn. of Social Workers, Ks Chapter, presented testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 6) and she requested support of an amendment to clarify who the providers of services are: which would be physicians, nurses and persons licensed by the behavioral-sciences regulatory board. A question was asked by Representative Moore. Chairman Bethell indicated to committee members that the amendment would be included in their bill book.

Amy Campbell, KS Mental Health Coalition, testified in support of the bill. (Attachment 7).

Debbie Holroyd, Outreach Coordinator, Alzheimer's Assn., spoke in support of the bill and agreed to provide data at the conclusion of the Dementia Bridge project to the committee. The written testimony was provided by Michelle Niedens, Alzheimer's Assn., Heart of America Chapter, (Attachment 8).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Aging & Long Term Care Committee at 9:00 am on February 8, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Written testimony in support of the bill was also provided by Steve Denny, Four Counties Mental Health Center, (Attachment 9). Don Strong, Mid KS Senior Outreach, (Attachment 10). Ernest Kutzley, AARP, (Attachment 11). Michelle Sweeney, Assn. Of Community Health Centers of KS, Inc. (Attachment 12). and Joe Ewert, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. (Attachment 13).

No other conferees on **HB 2047**.

Chairman Bethell closed the hearing.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.