

Approved: February 14, 2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 11:00 a.m. on February 10, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, KLRD
Rae Anne Davis, KS Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, KS Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Michael Corrigan, Asst. Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Secretary Janet Schalansky, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Dr. Michael Moser, Director, Department of Health & Environment
Carol Williams, Director, Governmental Ethics Commission
Duane Goossen, Director, Division of the Budget

Others attending: See attached list

The Chairman announced that today's meeting would constitute the official hearing as required by federal law with respect to the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Federal Block Grants and with respect to the Department of Health and Environment Federal Block Grants. He called the hearing on the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Federal Block Grants to order.

Secretary Janet Schalansky, SRS, reviewed the individual federal block grant programs and the amount of federal dollars appropriated for them in FY 2001. (Attachment 1) There was discussion about how the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness grants differ (in funding source and targeted groups of population) from the homeless grants that were reported as "unavailable" in the press. Concern was expressed that the individual mental health centers are not being held accountable for how the federal block grant monies are expended. Secretary Schalansky stated that the centers provide expenditure reports and she would check with quality assurance staff to see if those reports are reviewed. Senator Ranson told members that a Post Audit study on the delivery and funding of mental health services is being conducted and the goal is to track individual streams of money and the results. She stated that the report is due the end of March. There was some discussion about the profile of the homeless person and how communities define the level of services that are needed.

There was discussion regarding the funding level for the block grants in comparison to prior years. The Secretary did not address the Mental Health Services Block Grant, but stated that funding for all the other block grants had either remained flat or had been decreased with the exception of the LIEAP block grant, which increased last year because of weather conditions. Concern was expressed about administrative costs of the Social Services Block Grant at the state and local levels.

It was asked that the Secretary elaborate on the substance abuse programs. Secretary Schalansky stated that Kansas State University measures treatment outcomes using an addiction severity index. The results of the study show a slight improvement, but the Secretary noted that conclusions of the study may not be accurate because follow-up is voluntary and the scope of the study is small. In response to a concern, the Secretary stated that a Senate Concurrent Resolution asks that the Governor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council provide more information about the success of substance abuse programs.

The Chairman called the hearing on the Department of Health and Environment Federal Block Grants to order and welcomed the new Director of the Division of Health, Dr. Michael Moser.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Dr. Moser distributed and briefly reviewed copies of his written testimony which outlined The Preventive Health and Health Services (PH) Block Grant and The Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH) Block Grant. In answer to questions, Dr. Moser explained how the grant monies are dispersed and referred to charts in his written testimony. (Attachment 2-7 & 8) In answer to a question, Cassie Lauver of the Bureau of Children, Youth & Families, stated that staff goes to the counties to monitor and assure that services are being provided.

The Chairman asked if anyone in the audience would like to address any of the Federal Block Grants. There were no other conferees, and the Chairman declared the hearings closed.

SB 481: Governmental ethics commission; biennial budget

Deb Hollon, KLRD, explained that **SB 481** adds the Governmental Ethics Commission to the list of agencies that submit budget estimates on a biennial basis.

Carol Williams, Director, Governmental Ethics Commission, appeared before the Committee and reviewed her written testimony in support of **SB 481**. (Attachment 3) It was noted that the agency's first biennial budget would be for FY 2002-2003.

Duane Goossen, Director, Division of the Budget, appeared before the Committee and told members that currently 23 agencies have biennial budgets and those are working well. He noted that adding this agency to the list of biennially budgeted agencies crosses a policy line because this agency has partial SGF funding. He cautioned the Committee that the switch from annual to biennial is not as simple as this suggests and should not be done without thorough investigation.

Senator Morris moved, Senator Salisbury seconded, that **SB 481** be recommended favorably for passage. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

It was moved by Senator Petty and seconded by Senator Salisbury that bill draft 9rs 1962 as requested by Senator Petty be introduced. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Feleciano moved, Senator Salisbury seconded that bill draft 9rs 1812 as requested by SRS be introduced. The motion carried on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Senator Salisbury and seconded by Senator Jordan that the minutes of the February 7 & 8 meetings be approved. The motion carried on a voice vote.

A tabulation of the ending balances in the EDIF for FY 2000 and FY 2001, compiled by the Kansas Legislative Research Department, was distributed to members. (Attachment 4)

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held February 11, 2000.