

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2004 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Larry Campbell-excused  
Representative Tom Klein-excused  
Representative Bonnie Sharp-excused

Committee staff present:

J. G. Scott, Legislative Research  
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research  
Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research  
Michele Alishahi, Legislative Research  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes  
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Analyst  
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Janet Schalansky, Secretary of Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)

Others attending:

See Attached List.

- Attachment 1 Agency Overview, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)
- Attachment 2 Update on SRS Issues

Representative Pottorff moved to introduce legislation regarding the state use law. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Chair Neufeld recognized Janet Schalansky, Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), who presented an overview outlining the agency's mission and vision; summary of expenditures; summary of persons assisted; consensus caseloads and other caseloads; persons served through the Physically Disabled & Developmentally Disabled waivers; consolidation of management areas; highlights of SRS changes with the governor's budget recommendations; recommended legislation for the 2004 Legislative Session; and on-going issues for SRS (Attachment 1). Secretary Schalansky noted that adoptions continue to rise while the number of persons in foster care is declining. Responding to questions from the Committee, The Secretary indicated that if the State loses the General Assistance and MediKan lawsuit with regards to the 24-month limitation, the cost to the State for the General Assistance portion, would be approximately \$400,000 in FY 2004 and \$1 million in FY 2005 and the cost of the MediKan portion, would be approximately \$1 million in FY 2004 and \$2 million in FY 2005. Secretary Schalansky noted that the agency is continuing to work with the budget director to determine if family preservation services should be included with the consensus caseloads. Secretary Schalansky indicated that the consolidation of management areas is progressing with six projected service areas by the end of FY 2005. SRS presently has over 400 access points and anticipates that number to increase as the program is advanced.

Secretary. Schalansky also presented an update on SRS issues, specifically referring to the local service delivery redesign efforts, the changes in caseload estimates since the 2003 Legislative Session, and the status of the General Assistance/MediKan lawsuit against SRS (Attachment 2). Secretary Schalansky stated that SRS is working to improve customer service by creating access points with community providers, such as libraries; toll-free phone and fax numbers; and a website containing information and application forms, in an effort to be more accessible to the customer. As of December 31, 2003, SRS has closed 30 local offices and plans to close an additional 20 offices between January and June, 2004. Responding to a concern from the Committee, Secretary Schalansky noted that, at the present time, SRS has negotiated agreements with local private business providers at no cost to the State. As the program progresses, it may be necessary to pay for paper expense as well as other costs. The program will continue to be evaluated.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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With regards to state vehicles, the Secretary stated that the agency felt it is important to use state-owned vehicles when transporting a client or when investigating in the area of child protective services, indicating that the agency will continue to look at mileage reimbursement versus the use of a state-owned vehicle. With regard to the child support enforcement penalty, Secretary Schalansky stated that the agency has discovered an error in their reporting system and has corrected the problem. SRS is appealing the penalty decision because SRS asserts that the Federal government should have given a twelve-month corrective action period that had actually expired by the time the State received the report. In response to a question from the Committee, Secretary Schalansky responded that each of the six proposed service areas will have a geographic name and an area director. The Chair thanked Secretary Schalansky for her presentation.

Representative Neufeld introduced his legislative intern, Chris Keefover, a student from the University of Kansas. Representative Feuerborn introduced his legislative intern, Josh Mast, also a student from the University of Kansas.

**HB 2569** was referred to the Social Services Budget Committee and **HB 2582** was referred to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee.

Representative Bethell moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2004, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

The Chair announced that Secretary Deb Miller, Department of Transportation, will present at the Committee meeting on January 28, 2004. Secretary Roger Werholtz, Department of Corrections and Patricia Scalia, Executive Director of the Board of Indigents Defense Services, will give presentations on January 29, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on January 28, 2004.