

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Ballard, Crum and George who were excused.

Committee staff present:

Kimbra Caywood McCarthy, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Judy Holliday, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rocky Nichols, Exec. Dir., Disability Rights Center, on behalf of Big Tent Coalition

Askia Adams, Topeka

Pat Eakes, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Stephanie Wilson, Alliance for Kansans with Developmental Disabilities

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Bethell brought before the Committee **HB 2893--All-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) program**. The bill would remove the requirement from Kansas Health and Environment that they be licensed as a home health agency. The testimony on the bill at the previous hearing was favorable from both Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Department on Aging. He asked the Committee what they wanted to do with the bill, reminding them that **HB 2893** needed to go back to the Appropriations Committee where the bill originated. Representative Hawk moved to pass the bill out favorably, seconded by Representative Henry. The motion carried.

Hearing on HB 2761--Home and community based services under DD, PD, FE and TBI medicaid waivers, waiting lists, service provider rates, multi-year appropriations.

Chairman Bethell asked staff from Legislative Research to explain the intent of the bill.

Rocky Nichols, Exec. Dir., Disability Rights Center, testified as a proponent on **HB 2761** on behalf of Big Tent Coalition (Attachment 1). Mr. Nichols stated that **HB 2761** creates a new challenge, to eliminate the waiting list and expand community capacity on the Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver over the next three years. He further stated that a disabled person waiting in an institution for services costs the State far more in taxpayer dollars than if they were in the community. The Big Tent Coalition believes waiting lists are bad for families, for the disabled, and for taxpayers.

Askia Adams testified as a proponent of **HB 2761** (Attachment 2). Mr. Adams is a 30-year old disabled man who depends on personal care attendants (PCAs) for his care. He gave examples of PCAs who because of the low state reimbursement rates cannot make a living wage and who can make more money working in hospitals and nursing homes. He urged the passage of the bill to enable the PCAs to make a living wage.

Pat Eakes, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC), testified as a proponent on **HB 2761** (Attachment 3). The KCDC urges support of full funding to eliminate the current waiting list for Home and Community Based Services Development Disabilities waiver services. Ms. Eakes told the Committee that some services provided to the disabled in the community include assistance in locating jobs, getting ready for work, and other needed assistance needed for successful employment. By eliminating the waiting list for the Development Disabilities waiver, there is the potential for increased employment of people with development disabilities, with an added bonus of saving money for the people of Kansas.

Stephanie Wilson, Alliance for Kansans with Developmental Disabilities, testified as a proponent on **HB 2761** (Attachment 4). Ms. Wilson stated that there are currently 1300 persons waiting for services, with an estimated 286 persons with developmental disabilities to be placed out of public and private intermediate care facilities over the next five years. In addition, Ms. Wilson spoke to the need to enhance wages to hire and retain adequate numbers of direct care staff. **HB 2761** contains funding for the services and wage increase.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Social Services Budget Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

Continued hearings on **HB 2761** will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.