

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:35 A.M. on February 5, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Jim Barone - excused

Senator Jay Emler - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes

J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Reagan Cussimanio, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means

Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Melissa Ness, St. Francis Academy

Lee Flamik, Larned State Hospital

Wendy Lockwood, Center for Counseling and Consultation

Cheryl Rathbun, St. Francis Academy

Ric Dalke, Area Mental Health Center (Southwest Kansas)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger referred the following bill to the Department on Aging Subcommittee:

SB 245--State long-term ombudsman, volunteer ombudsman recruitment and training, budget estimates

The Chairman referred these Legislative Post Audit Reports to the following subcommittees for review:

<u>Audit</u>	<u>Subcommittee</u>
Finance & Compliance Audit Report KPERs FY 2006	KPERs Issues (Sen. Morris, Chair)
Performance Audit Report Postsecondary Educational Institutions Reviewing Tuition Rates Being Charged to Non-Resident Students in Kansas	Higher Education (Sen. Morris, Chair)
Performance Audit Report KPERs: Reviewing Active and Passive Investment Management Approaches and the State's Pension Obligation Bonds	KPERs Issues (Sen. Morris, Chair)
Performance Audit Report Reviewing Operations of the State Treasurer's Office FY 2006	Elected Officials - State Treasurer (Sen. Emler, Chair)
Performance Audit Report Reviewing Operations of the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) FY 2006	Elected Officials - State Treasurer (Sen. Emler, Chair)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:35 A.M. on February 5, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed the conferees who presented information on mental health issues in rural Kansas (Attachment 1). They were Lee Flamik, Larned State Hospital, Wendy Lockwood, Center for Counseling and Consultation, Cheryl Rathbun, St. Francis Academy, Ric Dalke, Area Mental Health Center, Southwest Kansas and Melissa Ness, St. Francis Academy. Among the issues addressed were accessibility to services including transportation in travel time and travel reimbursement barriers. Also, availability can be a barrier which includes shortages of appropriate professionals to provide service. Limited numbers of providers per capita create a challenge in providing the number and range of psychiatric services, which is compounded in frontier and rural areas. Acceptability includes both stigma and “rural cultural competence.”

It was noted that many creative partnerships are being utilized to draw upon the strengths of the frontier and rural counties and a few examples were given of the current collaborative efforts currently in place to meet the needs of children and families. Committee questions and discussion followed.

Information was received from The Rural Committee of Mental Health Services for Children and Families (Attachment 2) and The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare (Attachment 3).

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for the same day, February 5, 2007, at 11:45 a.m.