

Approved: February 14, 2012

(January 12, 2012)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

JANUARY 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiegerl at 10 a.m. on January 12, 2012, in Room 142S of the Capitol.

All members except:

Sean Gatewood – Excused
Melody McCray-Miller – Excused
Steve Brunk - Excused

Committee Staff Present:

Rena Jefferies, Office of the Kansas Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
June Christensen, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Kiegerl explained the committee's main expectations would be:

1. **AUTISM** – there are 280 children on the waiting list. Money approved for this last year disappeared, and he said it won't happen again. The Governor's staff said the number of dollars allocated will remove the autism waiting list entirely.
2. **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** – It is not expected to reduce or eliminate the waiting list of over 4000, which grew by 500 last year, but we hope to see that it doesn't grow. There is a four-year waiting period at this time. One-half billion dollars is in the budget

The following issues will be addressed:

1. **INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM** – A bill was passed last year regarding this issue, but it only covers state employees, and the goal is to expand it to all autistic people. Chairman Schultz and the Insurance Committee will be addressing this critical and controversial issue.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Committee at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 12, in Room 142S of the Capitol.

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT – The Kansas State Board of Education, at the hearings last year, had assured it would develop a policy and procedure that would implement uniformity in all school districts. This has not been done. A draft bill will be introduced and worked that will make it easier for parents to accept. Representative Kinser is introducing **HB 2227** that will allow funding to follow the student rather than remaining at the school. It will probably be very controversial with hearings to be held and to get the bill to the floor.

2. **FOSTER CARE** – The issue of foster care will be addressed again this year. It is not clear who or when a replacement for Rob Siedlecki will take place.
3. **GRANDPARENTS' RIGHTS** – it is hoped that there can be a notification of court proceedings for citizen review to have more transparency and accountability.

Next Tuesday's meeting will be an informational meeting on Human Trafficking. Chairperson Kiegerl introduced Martha Dorsey, Principal Analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department. Ms. Dorsey said there will be four presenters: Assistant Attorney General Christine Ladner; Sedgwick County Assistant DA Marc Bennett; Atchison County Attorney Jerry Kuckelman; and Kristy Childs, founder of Veronica's Voice (victim services organization). This is an issue that is generating considerable interest at this time. Chairperson Kiegerl noted there would be testimony before the Federal and State Affairs Committee as well. The Attorney General has two bills being prepared now that will go to the Judicial Committee. He noted that it would be supported.

Chairperson Kiegerl questioned if the committee members wished to introduce any bills. Representative Rubin said he would be introducing one that would prohibit exclusion and restraint of autistic children, which was based on last year's hearings. It would exclude altercation and harmful actions.

Chairperson Kiegerl requested that a motion be made.

Representative Rubin moved that support for the proposed bill that would prohibit exclusion and restraint of autistic children be accepted: It was seconded by Representative Gregory and carried unanimously.

Chairperson Kiegerl distributed a copy Committee Rules. (Attachment 1). He drew attention to Items 6 and 7 regarding tabled motions, noting that they must be tabled at least one day and are nondebateable.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2012, in Room 142S.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.