

Approved: February 14, 2012

(January 24, 2012)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Kiegerl at 9:04 a.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, in Room 142S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Bill Craig, Lakemary Center, Paola
Mark Siegmund, LCPC, Chief Clinical Officer, KidsTLC

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Representative Brunk, doing penance for a cell phone infraction, provided treats for committee members and staff.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Chairperson Kiegerl announced that there were several bills for introduction today and briefly described each:

Proposed Bill Giving Preference for Grandparents' Custody, Visitation, and Residency

Proposed Bill Allowing Schools to Create an Autism Scholarship Program

Proposed Bill to Allow Parents Leave for School-Related Activities

Proposed Bill to Allow Law Enforcement to Take Minors into Custody if Believed to be a Child
Child in Need of Care

Proposed Bill to Allow Reimbursement of Cost of Care for Child in Grandparents' Custody

Proposed Bill Concerning Citizen Review Boards, Duties/Powers and Appointment of

Ms. Jefferies presented another bill regarding Proposed Revision to *Revised Code of Care* Allowing Grandparents to Participate in Proceedings and explained the provisions.

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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Motion by Representative Roth that the Committee accept all of the bills as presented. Representative Rubin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Representative Brunk updated the Committee on the topic of Human Trafficking that was presented at the last meeting. An advisory board started by the previous attorney general, and continuing with the present one, has two new members: Representative Colloton and Senator Francisco. The emphasis will be for less treatment of the victims and more toward prosecution of those responsible for trafficking and facilitating those activities. Legislation to strengthen the penalties so they cannot operate will be introduced.

Chairman Kiegerl said that testimony was chilling and stark, making the need for further action necessary. He promised this committee's support to whichever committee is assigned the proposed legislation.

PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENCE TREATMENT FACILITY CENTERS PRESENTATION (PRFT)

Chairman Kiegerl said that he had visited several facilities, and the purpose of the hearing is to make them more efficient and effective. He introduced Dr. Bill Craig of Lakemary Center who reported that Lakemary Center is a not-for-profit organization, based in Paola for over 42 years. It currently serves children through adults in many types of programs and offers exclusive services for children with both developmental disabilities and acute disabling psychiatric conditions. Lakemary receives a Medicaid rate of \$266 per day for each child in the PRFT program, which is less than others in the state, and is a better alternative than psychiatric inpatient hospitalization. The recent controversy is due to conflict of interest by the gatekeeper method of handling the cases that has caused extremely erratic application of admission standards, and children are being discharged to a home situation that is not prepared nor has adequate support to care for the children. (Attachments 1 and 2).

Dr. Craig answered several questions regarding costs of treatment with various facilities and the results of the managed-care program.

Chairperson Kiegerl introduced Mark Siegmund from KidsTLC of Olathe, who said the persons it serves comprise a very difficult population that has been complexly traumatized by all kinds of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Because of funding issues, there has been a severe reduction in staff. The facility determined that it would take children needing the most care, many of whom had been in up to 100 different placements from an early age through the teen years. The facility charges about \$320 per day; the goal is to add more therapy and more active treatment as well as going into the homes before the children are discharged to educate parents and caregivers. (Attachment 3).

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He also expressed concern about the managed-care programs, which have three committees that oversee their facility. He distributed a copy of a committee report, which will be made available for this committee's members. A University of Kansas Medical Center report on residential treatment can be accessed on line.

Representative Brunk questioned what are some of the reasons there is an increase in services, which Mr. Siegmund said has several causes – socioeconomic conditions, breakup of families, absentee fathers, and parents not knowing how to parent. Many young girls have been the victims of sexual harassment by boys as young as 11-13 years old, which may cause a lifetime of mental issues for the persons involved. The facility does offer spiritual counseling by the use of a full-time chaplain.

Representative McCray-Miller asked what decisions and policies drove the change in methods where psychiatric residential facilities closed. Gatekeeping and mental health make the decision on who gets the treatment.

Chairman Kiegerl he would try to get a representative from SRS to address the committee and get their responses and recommendations. Legislative action may not be needed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 26, 2012, at 9 a.m. in Room 142S.

Chairperson Kiegerl adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.