

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on February 1, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sawyer - excused

Committee staff present:

J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department  
Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department  
Cody Gorges, Legislative Research Department  
Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes  
Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff  
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Weatherford, President, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC)  
Representative Kenny Wilk  
Senator Nick Jordan  
Dr. Ed Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University  
Dr. Debbie Mercer, Dean of College of Education, Fort Hays State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Housing Disaster Recovery Funding by Steve Weatherford
- Attachment 2 Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2008
- Attachment 3 Annual Report of the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- Attachment 4 Response from KHPA to Committee questions with regard to State Employee Health Plan

### Introduction of Legislation

Representative Bethell moved to introduce legislation regarding geriatric mental health. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

### Housing Disaster Recovery Funding by Kansas Housing Resources Corporation

Steve Weatherford, President, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC), presented testimony with regard to housing disaster recovery funding (Attachment 1). Mr. Weatherford reported that funding authorized by the State, in addition to federal resources and private investment, has provided a total of \$39.8 million in affordable rental housing development for the State. The Committee expressed concern that a considerable amount of the funding was being spent in the southeast area of the State and felt that there is a need for affordable housing across the entire State. Mr. Weatherford stated that affordable housing is a vital component to increase growth and economical development. In order to be successful, the program needs the support of city and county government, as well as the state and federal government, in order to provide infrastructure for housing development.

### Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science by Fort Hays State University

Representative Kenny Wilk and Senator Nick Jordan addressed the Committee on the positive approach of the State with the passage of **SB 139** during the 2006 Legislative Session that encouraged the development of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS) which will provide for an exceptional academic experience for talented high school students. Both legislators noted that this unique approach to education will provide specialized instruction to

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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address the shortage of engineers and teachers as well as other professionals across the State. (A booklet titled "The Talent Imperative, Building Kansas' Capacity in Mathematics, Engineering, Technology, and Science, January 2008" was distributed to the Committee and is available from Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas).

Dr. Edward Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University (FHSU), provided testimony on FHSU successful procurement of KAMS on the campus of FHSU after an application process through the Board of Regents. A copy of the FHSU application to the Board of Regents was distributed to the Committee (Copy available from Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas). KAMS will provide for junior and senior high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in mathematics and science to be able to spend the last two years of their high school education at KAMS for specialized instruction. Dr. Hammond noted that there is a critical need for quality employees across the state in order to maintain the state's economy and felt that KAMS is an innovative approach to address the problem of supplying those employees.

Dr. Debbie Mercer, Dean of College of Education, FHSU, provided testimony on the basic requirements for the mathematics and science curriculum directed at small class size with an emphasis on mathematics and science (brochure describing the curriculum is available from Fort Hays State University).

Responding to questions from the Committee, Dr. Hammond indicated that the tuition for out-of-state students attending a similar program in Missouri is approximately \$10,000 per year. Dr. Hammond stated that FHSU will do aggressive fund raising to secure private funding to support the facility and limit the amount of State funding required for the program. It is felt that a number of large businesses will support the concept of providing talented future employees. It is also anticipated that State funding from the K-12 educational system will follow the student who is accepted into KAMS during their junior and senior year of high school education. Tuition and costs will be charged to out-of-state students who are accepted into the program. The Committee expressed concern with the maturity of these students. Dr. Hammond stated that this concern has been addressed by providing psychologists, counselors and dormitory supervisors to support the program.

The Committee applauded the commitment of FHSU to move forward with the concept of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science.

### **Kansas Expanded Lottery Act (KELA)**

Chair Schwartz informed the Committee that a court decision in Case No. 07-C-1312 handed down today in Kansas District Court by Judge Andrews ruled that the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act (KELA) as enacted by the 2007 Legislature is constitutional.

### **Other Topics**

The following information was distributed to the Committee:

- Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2008 (Attachment 2).
- Annual Report of the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) (Attachment 3).
- Response from KHPA to Committee questions with regard to State Employee Health Plan (Attachment 4).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 4, 2008.

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Sharon Schwartz, Chair