

Approved: Al Ramirez 2.2-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alfred Ramirez at 1:30 p.m. on January 28, 1993 in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Bogina - Excused

Committee staff: Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Fred Carman, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Janet Schalansky, Director Workforce Development, SRS

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Ramirez called the meeting to order and asked for action on the January 26 minutes.
Senator Gooch moved the minutes of the January 26 meeting be approved with a second by Senator Papay.
The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was introduction of bills. Senator Papay requested a bill be introduced concerning the state health care benefits program; continuity of coverage. Senator Vidricksen moved for introduction of the bill with a second by Senator Reynolds. The motion carried.

Senator Papay requested introduction of a bill concerning the Kansas Civil Service Act. Senator Vidricksen moved for introduction of the bill with a second from Senator Feleciano. The motion carried.

Chairman Ramirez requested introduction of a bill concerning electricians; examinations. Senator Feleciano moved for introduction of the bill with a second by Senator Reynolds. The motion carried.

The Chairman called on Janet Schalansky, Director Workforce Development, SRS, to continue her presentation and answer questions.

The statement was made to Ms. Schalansky by one of the committee members that he was very much impressed with the fact that Secretary Whiteman brought her on board.

Another comment was made that if both agencies are serious about working together and affirming memorandums of understanding, there must be broad based direction and authority to allow them get on with the program.

Ms. Schalansky stated that it is the goal of Secretary Whiteman to get the program doing what it is designed to do and that is to direct client services. The information the committee was given on the contract was a little different than her understanding. Part of the problem of the reason it hasn't been resolved is that by the time the Post Audit report had been issued, request for proposals had already been open and applications in from other agencies. The scenario seemed to be 'here we are, we've had other agencies who have submitted bids and responded to the Department of Administration's request for proposal and did what we requested them to do and now we have a situation where according to Post Audit it ought to have been with DHR. One of the reasons that they went for bid was because the private sector was interested in employment and training. They don't think it should be just SRS and DHR. It is partially a legal issue as to what is done in the counties where there are bidders. That is why they moved ahead in the four counties because there was no one to contest that. It is a matter of resolving legal issues and moving forward.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, Room 531-N
Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on January 28, 1993.

One of the committees members commented that it seemed that oftentimes the solution to the agency solving its problem was with more money and more bodies. We can no longer afford to throw bodies at problems. It is absolutely essential to get an information gathering system. Before we start throwing bodies and sizeable taxpayer's dollars and all the hardware that follows, we should analyze where the system stands.

The penalties or sanctions of putting the program on hold until problems are solved was discussed. Ms. Schalansky stated that there are several things involved. If they don't do different things, they are penalized by the federal government. The federal match rates would be brought down. This could cost the state.

The comment was made that SRS should do what it does best and provide support services and let DHR do job placement, etc. The specific roles each agency plays must be resolved.

The concern with hiring so many people at one time was expressed. Are these people getting the proper training to get out there and get results. Is the federal government judging the program in the state only by the numbers hired, or the progress made with the program.

The reply to this was that they are looking at the number of clients and client participation; the number of clients that are referred and assessed; the number of clients that are different components. The necessary staff has to be hired so those clients can be referred, and assessment can be done as to why they are on assistance, what deficiencies do they have, etc. The clients cannot be run through the system without the necessary staff.

In reference to the data system, the federal government does require an evaluation system. The Kansas Care system does have to meet the requirements of the system that they have outlined. The federal government is picking up a share of the match to buy the hardware. Computers are going to be needed in the field for reporting and the agency should be getting data quickly.

Ms. Schalansky referred to one of the prior day's attachments which showed 4,220 Jobs clients referred, 2,304 Jobs clients assessed, and 588 who have become Job Ready. It also shows the Jobs clients who have entered an education component. These clients self-sufficiency plans have been completed and they are in the process of completing their goals; the number of clients placed in jobs was 850.

The question was asked what ABE stood for. The reply was Adult Basic Education.

One of the committee asked for a simple flow chart showing the person being helped and how much these people cost us. Another committee stated that this would be hard because of the different amounts for different services. Comments were made concerning the number of persons on the payroll. What Ms. Schalansky is going to provide the committee with is the total cost by administration; central office, field administration, and the different service components such as child care, MOST program and how many persons are receiving these components.

A committee member commented that oftentimes the agency is dealing with people who have fallen through the cracks; who have failed. If they take those people who have a chance, then the federal government hits them. There is a certain percentage that no matter how much is done for them will never make more than minimum wage. The success rates are not like we might like to see them.

It was remarked that CETA didn't work and it doesn't seem as if JTPA is working. A response to this was that JTPA is working in some areas.

Julian Efird, staff, commented that when a post audit report comes along that focuses on a specific subject matter, occasionally there is a theme that might have applicability to the other agencies that the committee may be dealing with in future years under the new K-GOAL legislation. This post audit report happened to identify an internal audit function at SRS which not all the cabinet agencies currently have. A lot of time and money, primarily time is invested in post audit going in and auditing agencies. A few of the cabinet agencies have their own staffs that do internal auditing. It is a self-correcting mechanism.

Allan Foster, Post Audit, stated that he did not know how big the staff was or how much money they had, but every time he has had to deal with them he has been impressed with the quality of their work; very thorough examinations. They are more financially oriented and their expertise is not as good. They are working for their agency and though they do not have the objectivity, they do pretty good work.

Chairman Ramirez went over next week's agenda and adjourned the meeting.
The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 1993.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE:

Senate
Gov Organization

DATE:

1-28-93

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