

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carlos Mayans at 1:30 p.m. on January 19, 1995 in Room 423-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Greta Goodwin - excused
Representative Joel Rutledge - excused

Committee staff present: Lois Hedrick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Day, Superintendent, Kansas Neurological Institute
Dwight Cross, Direct Care, Kansas Neurological Institute
Kathy Stefler, Unit Director, Kansas Neurological Institute
Cathy Bush, Northwood Unit, Kansas Neurological Institute
Susan Milla, Staff Psychologist, Kansas Neurological Institute
Craig Gates, Support Staff, Kansas Neurological Institute
Darnell Perkins, Client Disabilities Supervisor, Kansas Neurological Institute

Others attending: See Guest List, Attachment 1.

Dr. Robert Day opened the meeting by stating that little financial information will be forthcoming today as the staff of the Kansas Neurological Institute (KNI) will be presenting that information to the Appropriations Committee. He said if you have been involved with the possibility of closing an institution, you know it is a volatile, emotional issue. Dr. Day indicated KNI has not admitted anyone in four years, a dramatic change. Kansas is catching up where changes are nationally; the trend is away from institutionalization and group homes and towards individualized support. The staff at KNI doesn't want KNI to close; it has a strong commitment to the families. KNI also values its mission statement which is to assist in empowerment of people with developmental disabilities to achieve personal growth and well-being, realize choice, and attain full inclusion in society.

Dr. Day compared institutional care of today with that in the 1960s. Then Kansas had a law that the mentally retarded would be sterilized; thus over 600 involuntary castrations were done. Because of all of the changes that have taken place over the years, KNI is now a holding place to try to give them a "real" life.

Overall the budget is some \$25 million; 60% is Medicaid. There are about 750 employees--not all of whom are at KNI. Forty are foster grandparents and 40 are food preparers at Topeka State Hospital and Corrections. 270 people live at KNI presently; 247 will be there on June 17th (23 are being moved to the community). 90% are severely handicapped; 150 are not ambulatory and are primarily in wheel chairs. About 30% are under age 18.

Some staff members described the manner in which residents are being handled. Dwight Cross indicated residents were formerly in stringent supervision, even for the most basic needs. Now residents are given opportunity to make choices and to do for themselves the things they can do.

Kathy Stefler, a Unit Director, indicated the trend is from congregate to apartment living--reduced some 50% over the last 20 years. Susan Milla, Psychologist, explained that evaluations used to be of limitations for the mentally retarded; today it is to focus on capabilities, devising a care program that allows the patient to develop to the fullest extent.

Craig Gates, Support Staff, explained assisted living and described the ways in which the staff observes the residents and helps them to do things for themselves.

Dr. Day stated that decision making has been decentralized to the staff to reinforce the concept of support; thus direct line staff now have the power to make day-to-day decisions.

Representative Geringer asked about the availability of community care programs. Dr. Day said that it varies as some communities have money problems and, also, there is a shortage of housing in rural areas.

CONTINUATION PAGE

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 423-S State Capitol, at 1:30 p.m. on January 19, 1995.

Representative Wells asked what form testing takes when evaluating a resident. Susan Milla replied that her evaluations are by observation, not written tests.

Representative Haley asked about new admittances. Dr. Day answered that it is rare for any Kansas institution to admit new residents; that if any occur, they are usually for a political reason.

The committee members then divided into two groups and visited two units. Representative Mayans thanked Dr. Day for the interesting presentation, and the committee departed at 2:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 1995.

HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 19, 1995

| NAME | REPRESENTING |
|-------------------|--|
| Suzette Lacy | Director of QA - KNI |
| Robert Day | sup. of KNI |
| Kathy Stiffles | Unit Director - KNI |
| Lucretia Cross | MRT II - KNI |
| David Perkins | Client Services Supervisor |
| [Signature] | MRT I - KNI |
| [Signature] | Psychology |
| Kathy Bush | MRT II / Northwood |
| Meg Fortman | Qual. Assurance |
| [Signature] | Director, Job Placement / Adult Day Services |
| Edward K. Tillot | BUSINESS ADMIN - KNI |
| Bert O'Leary | Unit Director - KNI |
| Richard D Carlson | Intern Jerry Henry |
| Jarvin Hirsch | SRS / MATRS |
| Phyllis Gilmore | House of Rep. |
| Joann Freeborn | KS House Dist 107 |
| Henry Hinger | "District 65 |
| Becky Hutchins | 50 th District |
| Jonathan Wells | 84 th District |

