

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on February 1, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
 Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
 JoAnn Buntten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

 Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Others attending: See attached list

Overview of Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, BSRB, briefed the Committee on the current status of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. Ms. Gilmore noted that BSRB is the licensing board for most of the state's mental health professionals, the doctoral level psychologists, the master level psychologists, the bachelor, master and clinical level social workers, the master level professional counselors, and the master level marriage and family therapists. Most of the drug and alcohol counselors are registered with SRS at the present time. Ms. Gilmore noted that there has been a complete turnover of permanent staff since June of 1999. BSRB has gone from outdated software to state-of-the art computers, and they are currently working on a state and federal database as noted in her written testimony. (Attachment 1) Committee discussion related to the reorganization of BSRB, definition of alcohol and drug counselors, moving all alcohol and drug counselors under BSRB for licensure, and electronic license renewal "online" using credit cards.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2000.