



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 21, 2025

House Social Services Budget Hears Regulatory Agency Budgets

On Friday, Jan. 17, the House Social Service Budget Committee, chaired by Representative Dave Buehler (R-Lansing) held its first budget hearings. Committee members learned they will compare the following budget items when reviewing agency budgets:

- Legislative Budget
- Governor's budget
- Agency recommendations to the governor's office.

The committee heard budgets for the following agencies: the Kansas Board of Pharmacy, the Kansas Board of Mortuary Arts, the Office of the Child Advocate and the Kansas Guardianship Program.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Meets

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), saw bill introductions on the following:

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' waiver requirements for Rural Emergency Hospitals to allow skilled nursing beds
- Allowing advanced practice registered nurses access to the Healthcare Stabilization Fund

The committee also heard informational presentations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments.

The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee will meet tomorrow for an update from the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

Budget Committees Hear Update on Kansas Fights Addictions Grants

Today, Pat George, chair of the Kansas Fights Addiction Board, reported to the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Ways and Means Committees the history of where its funds originated and the enactment of legislation.

George noted that 75 percent of the funds go to the board, and 25 percent go to cities and counties to receive the funds. George projected that over 18 years, Kansas will receive approximately \$350 million. To date, Kansas has received roughly \$115 million. The board has allocated \$1.5 million to K.U. Research Group will provide a comprehensive needs assessment. Twenty-four million dollars in 135 grants have been awarded to 85 organizations. George reported they are creating a strategic plan to help with allocation.

The committee asked if early grantees could reapply, and George indicated they could. George suggested that the board encourage people to work together to seek grants. Committee members asked if the board is considering new programs and investments in existing programs related to homelessness. George indicated that a needs assessment could be helpful in this area. The committee asked about the contract with The Sunflower Foundation, and the attorney general's staff provided parameters around the contracts and how they measure outcomes.

The House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), also heard a report out on the following agency budgets: Kansas Behavioral Science Regulatory Board and Kansas State Board of Healing Arts.

House Health and Human Services Hear from Stakeholders

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), heard from stakeholder groups, including the Kansas Hospital Association.

Tara Mays and Jaron Caffrey presented to the committee on KHA and the items we hope to work on with the legislature during the 2025 session, which focuses on financial health, workforce, and patients' access to the proper care at the right time.

The committee also heard from the Kansas Medical Society. Executive Director Rachelle Colombo emphasized the need to balance access to care and quality of care.

The Silver Haired Legislature also reported priority legislative items to the committee. Chuck Schmidt presented to the committee the five areas of interest of the group, including:

- Creating a medical cannabis advisory board
- Medicaid expansion
- Converting Kansas Public Employers Retirement System Tier 3 to Tier 2 and providing a COLA for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Employees
- Increased funding for the Senior Care Act
- Funding for community-based transportation for senior citizens

The committee will meet again tomorrow.

Senate Utilities Committee Hears Bill Requiring EMS to Be Trained in CPR

Today, the Senate Utilities Committee, chaired by Sen. Michael Fagg (R-El Dorado), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 11](#), requiring the state 911 board to establish requirements for 911 telecommunicators to receive training and continuous education in telecommunicator-cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Proponent conferees included:

- Kari Rinker, American Heart Association
- Sonya Baeza, Individual and 911 operator
- Rex Bruce, Individual and Meade schools
- Christina Bartel, Kansas Emergency Services Association
- Nancy Holland, an Individual from Johnson County
- Richmond Carson, Individual

Opponent testimony was presented by Ed Klumpp of the Kansas Sherriff's Association and Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, and the League of Kansas Municipalities provided written opposition.

Introduction of Bills

[Senate Bill 41](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerns health and health care; relates to the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act; adds advanced practice registered nurse to the definition of health care provider

[Senate Bill 44](#) by the Committee on Education – Concerns education; relates to the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program; expands the postsecondary educational institutions eligible to participate in such a program

[Senate Bill 50](#) by the Committee on Education – Concerns education; relates to the state board of regents; establishes uniform interest rate provisions for scholarship programs that include repayment obligations as a condition of receiving a scholarship; authorizes the board to recover the costs of collecting such repayment obligations and to charge fees for the costs of administering scholarship, grant and other financial assistance programs; requires eligible students to enter into agreements with the state board of regents instead of a postsecondary educational institution as a condition to receiving a grant under the Adult Learner Grant Act

[Senate Bill 54](#) by the Committee on Judiciary – Concerns the code of civil procedure; relates to litigation funding by third parties; limits discovery and disclosure of third-party agreements in certain circumstances; requires reporting of such agreements to the judicial council and a judicial council committee to study third-party agreements; requires the clerk of the supreme court to develop a form for reports; exempts such reports from the Open Records Act

[House Bill 2043](#) by the Committee on Insurance Requested by Eric Turek, Kansas Insurance Department – Concerns insurance; relates to unfair and deceptive acts or practices; requires agents and insurers to respond to inquiries from the commissioner of insurance within 14 calendar days; authorizes certain rebate pilot programs to exceed one year in duration

[House Bill 2039](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Rep. Buehler on behalf of Fox Rehabilitation – Concerns health care; relates to the Kansas Credentialing Act; amends the definitions to provide that certain entities providing physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology are not home health agencies