

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT

MINUTES

July 30, 2002

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Tuesday, July 30, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 100 of the State House to conduct a hearing on recent allegations by Thomas Keane, Former Director, regarding the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and certain community mental health centers.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Neal Kurk, Chairman
Representative Kenneth Weyler, Clerk
Representative Rogers Johnson
Representative Beverly Rodeschin
Representative Marjorie Smith
Senator Arthur Klemm, Vice Chairman
Senator John Barnes
Senator Gary Francoeur
Senator Beverly Hollingworth
Senator Caroline McCarley
Senator Robert Boyce

Chairman Kurk opened the hearing at 10:12 a.m. and testimony was taken from the following individuals:

- Thomas Keane, Former Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services
- Donald Shumway, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services
- John Wallace, Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services
- Geoffrey Souther, Acting Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services
- Linda Saunders, Deputy Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services
- Dr. Dale Klatzker, President and CEO, Riverbend Community Health
- Dr. Zlatko Kuftinec, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, Community Council of Nashua
- Dr. Jesse Turner, Executive Director, West Central Behavioral Healthcare
- Carol Farmer, Assistant Executive Director, Community Council of Nashua
- Peter Janelle, Executive Director, Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester
- Wayne Williams, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester

Following testimony, Chairman Kurk stated that after speaking with Senator Klemm and others, he would like to recommend to the Committee that we ask the Legislative Budget Assistant to look into certain aspects of what we've heard to bring forward to the Committee some sort of a report which would set forth their findings. Chairman

Kurk stated that a letter should be drafted making such a request of the LBA. The letter will be circulated among Committee members prior to it being sent to the LBA for Committee members' comments. Chairman Kurk would then work with Michael Buckley and Catherine Provencher to develop a scope statement. The process then would require all of the Committee members to sign on or have some sort of a vote, a telephone poll or whatever might be appropriate to approve a final scope statement. (No formal motion was made.)

The hearing closed at 5:45 p.m.

Representative Kenneth Weyler, Clerk