

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

March 9, 2006

4:00 p.m. Room 123

Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger

Present:

Hottinger, Chair
Bob Kierlin
Sean Nienow
Sandy Pappas
Linda Scheid
Dan Sparks
Betsy Wergin

Absent:

Gary Kubly

Senator Hottinger called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: **Minnesota Dept. of Human Services**, Overview of Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Studies:

- Child Care Use in Minnesota: Report of the 2004 Statewide Household Child Care Survey;
- FFN Caregivers: Report of the 2004 Minnesota Statewide Household Child Care Survey;
- FFN Caring for Children Through the Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program: A Survey of Caregivers and Parents;
- Observations of FFN Care in Minnesota;
- FFN Child Care Provider in Recent Immigrant and Refugee Communities.

Presenters

- Deb Swenson-Klatt, Manager, Child Development Services, Minnesota DHS
- Richard Chase, Senior Consulting Scientist, Wilder Research
- Kathryn Tout, Program Director, Applied Research in Early Care and Education, Child Trends

AGENDA ITEM #2: **S.F. 2841-Hottinger**: Expanded Early Screening

Sen. Hottinger introduced the bill. Sen. Hottinger also moved the A-2 Amendment, which was adopted unanimously. The bill makes sure that the screening devices are approved by the Commissioner of Education.

- Andrea Ayres, Policy Advocate, Family and Children's Services, supports the bill. Ms. Ayres gave the committee hand-outs relating to the topic.
- Suzette Scheele, Parent, supports the bill. Ms. Scheele is a parent of a child with mental illness. She told her story, and explained how having the early screening would have helped her understand her child much sooner.
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch, opposed the bill. Dr. Effrem does not support government mental health screening. Her concerns lies in the parental consent form, Dr. Effrem does not think it goes far enough.
- Tom Pritchard, Minnesota Family Council, opposed the bill. Mr. Pritchard does not think

the consent form goes far enough in protecting parental consent.

- Dr. Willard Harley, Ph.D. and psychologist, stood in opposition to this bill. He is concerned that pediatricians are over-prescribing drugs to our young people.
- Ed Frickson, Licensed Psychologist, Ramsey County Human Services, supported the bill. He works with many high risk children. Mr. Frickson clarified comments from previous witnesses. Mr. Frickson explained that the screening is like a thermometer, it is not a given that children will be recommended drugs.
- Karen Cadigan, School Psychologist, Research Associate, University of Minnesota, supported the bill. Ms. Cadigan gave perspective from the field of child psychology. She noted that both nature and nurture matter when raising a child, and it is always good to get an early picture of a child's development.
- Sue Abderholden, Executive Director, National Association for the Mentally Ill –MN, supported the bill.

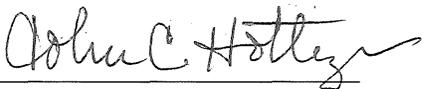
Senator Nienow raised his objections to the bill, namely, that schools would pressure parents into the screening. He also passed out a consent form that did not let parents know the screening was optional.

MOTION: Senator Scheid moved that S.F. 2841, as amended, be recommended to pass to the full Finance Committee.

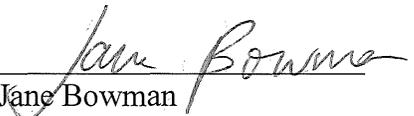
Motion prevailed.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Senator John C. Hottinger
Division Chair



Jane Bowman
Division Secretary

Senate Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

Chair: Sen. John Hottinger

Thursday, March 9, 2006

4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

Agenda

Minnesota Dept. of Human Services, Overview of Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Studies:

- Child Care Use in Minnesota: Report of the 2004 Statewide Household Child Care Survey;
- FFN Caregivers: Report of the 2004 Minnesota Statewide Household Child Care Survey;
- FFN Caring for Children Through the Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program: A Survey of Caregivers and Parents;
- Observations of FFN Care in Minnesota;
- FFN Child Care Provider in Recent Immigrant and Refugee Communities.

Presenters

- Deb Swenson-Klatt, Manager, Child Development Services, Minnesota DHS
- Richard Chase, Senior Consulting Scientist, Wilder Research
- Kathryn Tout, Program Director, Applied Research in Early Care and Education, Child Trends

S.F. 2841-Hottinger: Expanded Early Screening

- Sue Abderholden, Executive Director, National Association for the Mentally Ill-MN
- Andrea Ayres, Policy Advocate, Family and Children's Services
- Dr. Karen Effrem, Ed Watch
- Tom Pritchard, Minnesota Family Council
- Ed Frickson, Licensed Psychologist, Ramsey County Human Services
- Karen Cadigan, School Psychologist, Research Associate, University of Minnesota
- Suzette Scheele, Parent