

Drafted
Minutes of February 10, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, in Room 210, Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

- Senator Jansen called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. The roll of the Committee was called by the Committee Clerk.

Senator Jansen – Present
Senator Hardiman – Present
Senator Jacobs – Present

Agenda

- Approve minutes from February 3, 2009.

Motion by Senator Jansen to approve the minutes from February 3, 2009, was supported by Senator Hardiman.

A record roll call was ordered as follows:

Senator Jansen – Yes
Senator Hardiman – Yes
Senator Jacobs – Yes

- Presentation on Adoption and Programs to Promote Adoption.
 1. The Honorable Judge Judy Hartsfield with Wayne County Probate Court testified on Adoption. Judge Hartsfield explained some of the issues with the adoption of children who are wards of the state including: a delay in the assignment of adoption workers, the volume of paperwork families

- have to fill out, no concurrent plan for the child and families having to update their information after a year has passed.
2. Ms. Dona Abbott, representing Bethany Christian Services and the Michigan Federation for Children and Families, testified on Adoption and Adoption Programs. Ms. Abbott submitted written testimony.
 3. Mr. Ron Apol, representing D.A. Blodgett for Children and the Interagency Adoption Resource Committee, testified on Adoption and Adoption Programs. Mr. Apol submitted written testimony.
 4. Mr. Brad Snavelly and Mr. Charlie Nunez, representing Michigan Family Forum, testified on Adoption and Adoption Programs. They explained that people have concerns with adopting because they are worried that it costs too much, the birth parents may try to take the child back and the children are in the Foster Care system because they have committed a crime. They feel these myths discourage families from adoption and if families were more educated about the process and the number of children that need homes, more people would adopt.
 5. Ms. Kate Hanley, representing the Department of Human Services, testified on Adoption and Adoption Programs. Ms. Hanley submitted written testimony.

- Senator Jansen adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Comment, Clerk

Mark C. Jansen, Chair

Date Approved