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Wm. Jeff Kahrs, Interim-Acting Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

January 24, 2012

Testimony of:

Wm. Jeff Kahrs, Interim-Acting Secretary
Gary Haulmark, Legislative Director
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Topeka, Kansas

presented to:

The Hon. Dave Crum and Honorable Members
of the House Social Services Budget Committee:

SRS update on state reorganization plan for the House Social Services Budget Committee

Chairman Crum, Vice-Chair Bowers, Ranking Member Henry:

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding SRS' role in the implementation of Governor Brownback's reorganization plan.

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services supports and is working to achieve the reorganization of public health programs into a single state agency. SRS' Disability and Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) division is being merged with Kansas Department on Aging programs to create a new agency: the Department for Aging and Disability Services. This merger will support the successful implementation of KanCare. The SRS/DBHS programs involved in the reorganization are:

State Hospitals

Kansas Neurological Institute

Parsons State Hospital

Rainbow Mental Health Facility

Osawatomie State Hospital

Larned State Hospital

Addiction and Prevention Services

Mental Health Services

Community Supports and Services (Home and Community Based-Service waivers)

Management Operations/Administration

Working in collaboration with KDOA staff, SRS staff is now engaged in a series of cross-agency work teams designed to ensure that staff in KDOA fully understands the basic activities, functions and responsibilities of the DBHS programs and state hospitals so that an efficient and effective merger can occur.

As part of the agency reorganization, in addition to specific members of the DBHS program staff, SRS will provide the administrative positions necessary to support the state hospitals and DBHS programs.

Thank you.

Wm. Jeff Kahrs
SRS Interim-Acting Secretary