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But one of the things that still puzzles those involved in child abuse research and prevention programs, Gallmeier added, is that people from similar backgrounds, with what might be considered similar at-risk elements in their lives, don't necessarily become abusers.

That dilemma, she added, is now a major focus of study.

Gallmeier also told the committee, efforts at child abuse prevention should be presented as part of a broader public health package which addresses many other concerns, as well.

Additionally, Gallmeier said, prevention efforts should be community based, "giving people what they need, not necessarily just what you have."

FROM: SHAWN ASHLEY

DATE: 03/28/96

EARLY IDENTIFICATION BILL RAISES CONCERNS IN SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

■(GIT) A bill designed to help identify so-called at-risk families faced some criticism Tuesday during a meeting of the Senate's Human Resources Committee.

The committee substitute for **HB2393** is designed to help identify infants and their families who might benefit from existing social services and to encourage voluntary home visits, Senate author Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, told the committee.

Monson added that the screening process would hopefully be conducted at the time of birth of a child.

That raised the eyebrows of Sen. Howard Hendrick, R-Bethany, who expressed concern that implementing the plan might increase the cost of giving birth.

Monson replied that administering the proposed survey would take only a few minutes.

While her answer appeared to satisfy Hendrick, it did little to allay the fears of Sen. Carol Martin, R-Comanche, who expressed concern over the possible intrusiveness of the survey and its results.

Several members, however, argued that the measure was, as Hendrick said, "a great way to make parents aware of a problem that they might otherwise not know existed. I see a real value to doing this type of screening."

Hendrick went on to reiterate his earlier concern, adding that survey should be as simple as possible.

The measure received a do pass recommendation with the bill's title being stricken.

In other business before the committee, the following measures also received do pass recommendations:

HB2231 (committee substitute), by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, and Rep. Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, creating the Family Centered and Community Designed Services Act;

HB2251 (committee substitute with its title stricken), by Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City, and Rep. William Paulk, D-Oklahoma City, modifying language in the Oklahoma Emergency Medical Services Act related to ambulances and mediserve transport vehicles;

HB2261 (committee substitute as amended), by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Laura Boyd, D-Norman, requiring all individual and group health insurance policies providing coverage for women over the age of 45 to include coverage for routine bone density tests;

HB2501 (committee substitute as amended), by Sen. Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Calvin Anthony, D-Stillwater, modifying the powers and duties of the Department of Human Services, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and the Oklahoma Medicaid Program Integrity Act;

HB2648 (committee substitute), by Sen. Monson and Rep. Bill Mitchell, D-Lindsay, requiring the Oklahoma Department of Health to establish and enforce standards and requirements for the Home Health Care Act;

HB2802 (enacting clause stricken), by Sen. Rick Littlefield, D-Grove, and Rep. Mark Seikel, D-Harrah, establishing the levels of care given to residents of nursing facilities, specialized facilities and residential care homes;

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