

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:40 A.M. on January 26, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris- excused
Senator Mark Taddiken- excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Don Jordan, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introduction

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Steineger, to introduce a conceptual bill concerning repealing the salary cap on employees of the attorney general and the insurance commissioner. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger mentioned that a joint meeting will be held with the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, in Room 514-S, at 8:00 a.m. There will be a presentation by John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army, who will discuss the Corps of Engineers activities in Kansas.

The Chairman welcomed Don Jordan, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation (SRS), presented an overview of the agency (Attachment 1). Mr. Jordan mentioned that the mission of SRS is to protect children and promote adult self-sufficiency. Their vision is partnering to connect Kansans with supports and services to improve lives. Detailed descriptions of the Health Care Policy and Integrated Service Delivery divisions were provided by Acting Secretary Jordan. Information was also provided regarding consensus and other caseloads.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA), who provided an overview of the agency (Attachment 2). Dr. Nielsen provided a legislative history explaining that the agency was created in the 2005 legislative session. The general charge of the Authority is to develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that combines effective purchasing and administration of health care with health promotion oriented public health strategies which is driven by health data. The top priority budget initiatives for the KHPA are adding staff to the Medicaid Eligibility Clearinghouse, complete staffing and infrastructure for the Authority and develop a data management and policy analysis program. Dr. Nielsen mentioned that the three largest programs they have are Medicaid (regular Medicaid), MediKan and State Children's Health Insurance Program.

There were committee questions and discussion both with SRS and KHPA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2007.