

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE KANSAS FUTURES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlos Mayans at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2002 in Room 526-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Al Lane - excused
Representative Gene O'Brien - excused
Representative Mike O'Neal - excused
Representative Valdenia Winn - excused

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Sherman Parks, Jr., Revisor of Statutes' Office
Lois Hedrick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Connie Hubbell, Secretary, Department on Aging

Others attending: See attached list

The minutes of the meeting held on January 24, 2002 were approved.

Chairman Mayans highlighted the Kansas Health Institute's invitation to their Forum on *Prescription Drugs: Options for Increasing Access*, scheduled for January 30, 2002, and encouraged members to attend.

The Chairman then asked Vice Chairman Bethell to describe the conference that they attended in Florida over the past weekend, in which Kansas was one of five states invited. A cadre of representatives of the Governor, Kansas Department of Health, Social and Rehabilitation Services, and Legislative Research also attended.

Florida Conference

Vice Chairman Bethell noted the conference centered on all aspects of health and healthcare; and conferees were challenged to list all elements relating to the improvement of the health status of Kansans. As a result, Kansas delegates developed a concept to establish a "Kansas Commission on Health" which he recommended be legislated. Their recommendation may be found on Attachment 1 to these minutes. Vice Chairman Bethell made a conceptual motion that a committee bill be introduced to establish the Kansas Commission on Health. The Chairman endorsed the motion, and the committee approved it without opposition.

Kansas Department on Aging Overview

Connie Hubbell, Secretary on Aging, presented a written Agency Overview (see Attachment 2). Significant changes in programs, the challenges faced by the agency, and its strategic plan were discussed at length.

Representative Sloan noted committee bill, **HB 2685**, which provides tax credits for long-term care insurance premiums. The Chairman asked if there were statistics available to estimate how many of 100 persons who own long-term care insurance would be expected to end up in a nursing home at Medicaid expense. Secretary Hubbell indicated that roughly 5% of those 100 would own such insurance, but otherwise she had no answer. She indicated the question would be researched and a reply given later.

Vice Chairman Bethell voiced a concern of clients of nursing homes with mental or developmental disabilities being moved from the homes, and asked who administers the PASSR (Resident Review) tests. Secretary Hubbell indicated that qualified personnel conduct the tests.

The Chairman asked the meaning of the first goal of the agency's strategic plan (page 7 of Attachment 2). Secretary Hubbell answered that it was the agency's intention to provide information and services to support all levels of need to promote security, dignity, and the independence of senior citizens.

Representative Landwehr suggested a review of funding for senior transportation programs to insure it

CONTINUATION SHEET

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goes directly for the services provided. The example she gave was a city (or county) leasing a vehicle to a private contractor, who provides a trip costing about \$2 and then billing SRS's Medicaid program \$25. She also suggested careful recommendations be given by the agency for long-term care insurance purchases so as not to encourage high-cost policies for clients who cannot afford them.

Representative DiVita noted that transportation programs for adult daycare in the state are in crisis now due to funding problems.

The hearing was then closed with thanks to Secretary Hubbell.

The Chairman announced a committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2002; however, the weather may cause it to be cancelled.