

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Daniel Hawkins at 1:30pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Broderick Henderson – Excused
Representative John Whitmer – Excused

Committee staff present:

Renae Hansen, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Erica Haas, Legislative Research Department
James Fischer, Legislative Research Department
Renae Jeffries, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dodie Wellshear, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians
Rick Kellerman, MD, Director of Family Medicine at KU-Wichita
LaDona Schmidt, MD, Salina
Doug Gruenbacher, MD, Quinter
Jen Bacani McKenney, MD, Fredonia

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

Dodie Wellshear, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians introduced the overall presentation from the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians.

Rick Kellerman, MD, Director of Family Medicine at KU-Wichita, ([Attachment 1](#)) spoke to the committee about the educational process for students to become Medical Doctors specifically in the practice of family medicine. He noted that the KU school of medicine is ranked 25 in the US News and World report. They rank number 2 in the nation for Doctors going into family practice. They rank number 5 in putting doctors in rural areas. They rank number 6 over all into family residencies and they rank number 1 in the nation of their Doctors going into rural areas. He noted that without the family physicians the entire state of Kansas becomes under-served with physicians.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Jim Kelly, Les Osterman, and Jim Ward.

LaDona Schmidt, MD, Salina, ([Attachment 2](#)), spoke to the committee about her experience of being a nurse practitioner first and then went on to become a licensed physician. She noted that Doctor training matters and not just the years of education, but the way and intensity of the training. She believes that

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every Kansan deserves a physician and not just a Nurse Practitioner, but a Nurse Practitioner who collaboratively works with a Doctor. She believes they should not be providers without a Doctor. She believes that the tele-medicine is so important in this rural environment.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Dan Hawkins, and John Wilson.

Doug Gruenbacher, MD, Quinter, ([Attachment 3](#)) , talked about his families choice to move to a rural environment to practice medicine. The main reason they ended up in Quinter is because of the continued education they would get working with the partners at the practice they serve. He noted that not only is recruitment difficult in the rural area, but once they get a Doctor to their area, retention is a problem. He commented that it takes about 5-7 years after residency to become comfortable with the job of being a Doctor. He stated that family doctors do the most work in preventative maintenance to help patients stay out of health care sick patient system. He commented family doctors take care of people from cradle to grave, and they do it better than any other physician.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representative Dan Hawkins.

Jen Bacani McKenney, MD, Fredonia, ([Attachment 4](#)) , spoke to the committee about her choice to move back to Fredonia and practice medicine in her home town. The practice she works with serves their city of Fredonia of about 2,500 people and many of the surrounding small towns around the area. They do have a mentoring program for youth in grade school and high school encouraging them to enter the medical field and return home. She noted that they also play many roles in their community because it is a small community. She commented that one of the greatest student incentives for becoming a rural physician is the loan repayment program for rural area physicians.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Willie Dove, Jim Kelly, and John Edmonds.

Additionally, the committee was given extended information on additional resources ([Attachment 5](#)) as follows:

- Scholars in Rural Health;
- Kansas Medical Student Loan Program;
- Kansas Bridging Plan;
- Kansas Recruitment and Retention Center;
- Kansas Locum Tenens;
- Kansas State Loan Repayment, and;
- Authorization for Collaborative Practice.

Possible bill introductions

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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There were no bill introductions.

The next committee meeting is a tour of the free dental clinic by Mission of Mercy at the Kansas Expo Center scheduled for January 28, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM

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