

Approved:

Date

*January 26, 1999*

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on January 20, 1999 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Kathy Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research  
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Clyde Graeber, Acting Secretary, KDHE  
Don Brown, Public Information Officer, KDHE  
Joe Fund, Legislative Liaison, KDHE

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairperson Boston welcomed Clyde Graeber, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the meeting.

Clyde Graeber, Acting Secretary, KDHE, stated he had just been appointed to this position and already realized that a lot more goes on at KDHE than first thought. Mr. Graeber introduced Don Brown, Public Information Officer, KDHE, who gave an overview of the organizational structure of KDHE.

Don Brown, Public Information Officer, KDHE, stated there are four divisions, i.e., Division of Health, Division of Environment, Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories, and the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics. Mr. Brown reviewed the functions of each of the divisions, bureaus and programs in the agency. (See Attachment 1)

Joe Fund, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, stated the purpose of KDHE is empowered by the Kansas Legislature to enhance the public health and environment of Kansas. KDHE seeks to prevent disease, unintentional injury, and pollution, while promoting healthier and safer lifestyles and environmentally sound practices.

Public health work is different than the kind of work done by family physicians or local hospitals. Public health works from a community-wide perspective to prevent disease and injury from occurring in the first place. Also, public health promotes healthy lifestyle practices.

There are some public health functions which the law reserves exclusively for KDHE. These include maintaining birth, death, marriage, and divorce records; screening all Kansas newborns for life-threatening but preventable neonatal diseases; addressing disease outbreaks statewide; inspecting nursing homes and restaurants for proper sanitation and health practices; administering certain federally funded programs at the state level, such as WIC and some rural health programs; and more.

The goals of KDHE when it comes to pollution are first, prevention, and second remediation or clean-up. Many of our efforts focus on not only minimizing pollution sources, but on ensuring that approved waste disposal sites are safely maintained. KDHE works closely with small and large companies, farmers, ranchers, local water districts, and others to achieve compliance with state and federal environmental laws.

KDHE is authorized to have 834.6 full time equivalent (FTE) positions (total of 975 employees including unclassified) to carry out the mission and spends about \$170 million per year, with \$27 million of that being State General Fund dollars. The balance, or nearly 80 percent of the agency's budget (\$142 million) is Federal money and grants from private foundations.

It was asked where rural health was and Mr. Graeber stated that rural health was not overlooked but the name was changed and that is an important area that would be looked at.

It was asked where the 2.5 million of waste tires were going. KDHE stated there are efforts being made to

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 423-S  
Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on January 20, 1999.

recycle tires. There are some other materials made from tires, like floor mats. Some are used for landfill and efforts are being made to find uses for tires, but it is difficult to find use for 2.5 million tires.

It was asked how long bioterrorism in KDHE. Mr. Brown stated there are a number of state emergency responses. If this is a real threat there needs lab for testing. If bioterrorism does occur need to track with the laboratories and epidemiology. These cases are referred to the FBI, Department of Defense, etc.

Secretary Graeber replied they are concerned about bioterrorism and that will be addressed. That has recently become a real threat and KDHE is working on this and hope to have better answer in a month and would come back and give an update.

Representative Morrison moved and Representative Swenson seconded introduction of a bill concerning the optometry laws and drugs. The motion carried.

Representative Gilmore moved and Representative Landwehr seconded to introduce a bill for universal hearing screening on newborns. The motion carried.

The Chairperson announced the cancellation of the meeting for Thursday, January 21.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting will be January 25.





**KANSAS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT**  
BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR  
Clyde D. Graeber, Acting Secretary

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January 20, 1999

Testimony  
House Health and Human Services Committee

Don Brown  
Public Information Officer  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear this afternoon for a brief overview of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. As you are all aware, Secretary Graeber is just getting acclimated to his role at KDHE, so he has asked me to give you a quick run-through of the agency's structure and describe some of the roles and functions of KDHE.

This presentation will be somewhat informal. If you don't understand something or if you have a question, please speak up; I'm here to answer your questions and provide any information you need. What will follow is an "outline" approach to the KDHE organizational structure. I will try to touch briefly on all of the divisions, bureaus, and programs in this agency, and in doing so, I will try to give examples of the day-to-day activities carried out in each of these areas.

KDHE is divided into four Divisions: Division of Health, Division of Environment, Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories, and the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics.

### **Division of Health**

#### **Bureau for Children, Youth and Families**

Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services  
Children and Families Section  
Children's Developmental Services  
Nutrition and WIC (Women Infants and Children) Unit  
Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs

#### **Bureau of Consumer and Local Health**

Child Care Facilities, Inspection and Licensing  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Food, Drug, and Lodging  
Primary Care Section, Rural Health, Migrant Health

**Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention**

Epidemiology  
AIDS Program  
Sexually Transmitted Disease Program  
Immunization Program  
Tuberculosis Program

**Bureau of Health Facility Regulation**

Adult Care Home Program  
Field Services  
Health Occupations Credentialing  
Mental Health/Residential Facilities Program

**Bureau of Health Promotion**

Cancer Program  
Breast and Cervical Cancer Program  
Tobacco Use Prevention  
Diabetes Program  
Health Promotion Program  
Injury and Disability Prevention

**Division of Environment**

**Bureau of Air and Radiation**

Air Monitoring Services  
Air Permits  
Air Planning and Assessment  
Air and Asbestos Compliance  
Radiation Control

**Bureau of Environmental Field Services**

KDHE District Offices  
Environmental Data Support  
Environmental Planning Group  
Pollution Prevention–Small Business/Community Support  
Science and Standards

**Bureau of Environmental Remediation**

Assessment and Restoration  
Remedial Section  
Storage Tank Section  
Technical Services  
Surface Mining Section (Frontenac)

**Bureau of Waste Management**

Permitting Section  
Technical Support  
Waste Policy/Planning/Outreach

**Bureau of Water**

Confined Animal Feeding Operation Section  
Industrial Programs  
Municipal Programs  
Public Water Supply  
Non-Point Source Pollution  
Technical Services Section

**Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories**

Organic Chemistry  
Inorganic Chemistry  
Radiation Chemistry  
Neonatal Screening  
Diagnostic Microbiology  
Environmental Microbiology  
Virology/Serology  
Laboratory Improvement Program  
Laboratory Information and Reporting  
Laboratory Safety and Quality Assurance

**Center for Health and Environmental Statistics**

**Office of Health Care Information**

Health Care Database  
Kansas Health Insurance Information System  
Vital Statistics Information  
Occupational Injury Surveillance

**Office of Vital Statistics**

Certification

Customer Service

Processing

Information Request

Registration

Amendments and Corrections

Data Entry Support

Again, this is a quick and simple look at the KDHE organizational structure. Many on the committee no doubt already know most of this material. If I can be of any assistance to you now or at any time in the future, please don't hesitate to ask. Thank you for allowing me time in your busy committee schedule.

1-4