

Approved: February 1, 2001
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on January 16 in Room 210 Memorial Hall.

All members were present except: Representative Nancy Kirk, Excused
Representative Brenda Landwehr, Excused
Representative Patricia Lightner, Excused
Representative Ray Merrick, Excused
Representative Dale Swenson, Excused
Representative Jonathan Wells, Excused

Committee staff present: June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

The Committee toured the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and were briefed on methamphetamine laboratory seizures and how meth is made. There were 511 seizures in 1999, 705 seizures in 2000 and the number is climbing. It is very easy to make meth as the ingredients are easy to purchase and there is a huge profit. The cost is \$100 to \$150 an ounce to make and can sell for \$2800. There are 27.4 grams in an ounce and it takes about 3 hours to make. Meth has become an epidemic. Many people are addicted and if they can't afford to buy it they start making it. A person can become addicted with constant use over a 6 week period. It takes 6 months to become addicted to cocaine and 6-8 weeks to become addicted to crack cocaine. Some make the drug for their own addiction, some for friends and some for bargaining. Meth causes body odor, bone and teeth decay, central nervous system breakdown and spinal cord breakdown. Rehabilitation is very difficult. The age group is between 15 - 50. Most manufacturers are white.

Fires are a serious problem. Meth sticks around in the soil, they flush it down the toilets and is in the septic system. It gets in the carpets, water wells, and under buildings. Subsequent tenants come in and may not be aware there was a meth lab on the premises. The substance is found in the carpet, furniture and on the walls. There are established guidelines for the clean-up. Labs are found in hotels, motels, apartments, houses and businesses. Clean up has cost \$1.5 million in federal and state dollars.

Children have been known to have respiratory disease caused by the meth labs. The majority of these people do not have insurance and it is not known what the long-term consequences and health problems are. It could be very expensive for the state.

The committee toured the building.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. and the next meeting will be January 17.