

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 18.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

The Committee toured the Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories.

Theresa Hodges, Acting Director, stated the mission of the Health and Environmental Laboratories is to provide timely and accurate analytical support of Kansas public health programs to assure the quality of statewide laboratory services through certification and improvement programs (Attachments 1 & 2).

The next meeting will be January 22.

**Division of Health & Environmental Laboratories**  
**Theresa Hodges, Acting Director**

*The mission of the Health and Environmental Laboratories is to provide timely and accurate analytical support of Kansas public health programs to assure the quality of statewide laboratory services through certification and improvement programs.*

The **Health and Environmental Laboratories** (DHEL) provide comprehensive chemical and biological analyses on a large volume of samples received each year. These analyses provide diagnostic and assessment information necessary for the operation of public health and environmental programs. Certification and laboratory improvement efforts are performed for regulated health, environmental, and law enforcement laboratories.

DHEL operations has four subprograms: 1) Administration and Reporting; 2) Chemistry; 3) Microbiology; and 4) Laboratory Improvement and Certification.

The **Laboratory Administration and Reporting** subprogram provides overall laboratory direction and facilitates the acquisition of samples and specimens and the rapid return of data reports to public health clients each year.

The **Chemistry** subprogram consists of four chemistry laboratories, using sophisticated instrumentation to conduct analyses used to evaluate environmental air and water quality, to define asbestos and radiological hazards, monitor the proper use and disposal of chemicals, and diagnose diseases of public health interest.

The Neonatal Chemistry laboratory is the central laboratory for the screening of approximately 39,000 newborns in Kansas for four metabolic deficiency diseases within 30 days after birth. Newborn screening includes neonatal blood tests for the early detection and treatment of galactosemia, hypothyroidism, phenylketinuria (PKU), and hemoglobinopathies. An infant with one of the above conditions may die during infancy, be mentally retarded, or have long-term morbidity.

The Inorganic Chemistry laboratory performs inorganic analyses in support of public drinking water monitoring programs, air quality programs, environmental remediation projects and ambient water quality programs. The screening of children for lead toxicity is also conducted by this laboratory.

The Organic Chemistry laboratory performs analyses for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides, synthetic organic compounds (SOCs), and priority pollutants in support of public drinking water monitoring programs, routine ambient water monitoring programs, hazardous waste management programs and remedial cleanup activities of contaminated sites.

The Radiochemistry laboratory provides analyses for environmental monitoring in the vicinity of the

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Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Generating Plant. This program ensures safe public drinking water and detects airborne radioactivity. This laboratory also ensures that radioactive materials in the equipment used in medicine, research and industry is safe. The Radiochemistry laboratory provides radioanalytical support for the agency's Radiological Emergency Response Program.

The **Microbiology** subprogram consists of three laboratories in cooperation with environmental and public health programs in the agency to provide accurate and comprehensive data in support of environmental and public health priorities in Kansas.

The Diagnostic Microbiology and Virology/Serology laboratory programs provide analytical tests to support the agency's Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention programs as well as the public health needs of County Health Departments and other local medical facilities in Kansas. These laboratories provide laboratory analyses to characterize and diagnose infectious diseases, food borne outbreaks, intestinal illnesses, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases, including syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and human immunodeficiency virus. They also serve as a reference laboratory for viral and bacterial isolation and identification and antibiotic sensitivity testing to detect emerging resistant organisms.

The Environmental Microbiology program provides laboratory testing to ensure statewide safe drinking water throughout the state. In addition to drinking water samples, this laboratory analyzes surface water from lakes, rivers, and streams in support of the statewide ambient water quality monitoring program.

The **Laboratory Improvement and Certification** subprogram evaluates regulated clinical, environmental, and breath alcohol laboratories using established standards of laboratory operation and performance to ensure data quality. This subprogram also assists in providing court-defensible data for the prosecution of DUI subjects each year.

**Goals and Objectives.** The goal of the Laboratory is to provide essential support to disease prevention programs and reduce the incidence of disease and adverse health conditions through quality laboratory analysis and active surveillance systems. The following objectives have been established in pursuit of this goal:

Provide accurate, timely, and comprehensive chemical laboratory analyses consistent with Kansas environmental and public health program priorities.

Identify factors affecting the health and quality of life of infants born with metabolic and genetic diseases.

Provide clinical and reference microbiological services aimed at the prevention and diagnosis of infectious diseases and to assure the quality of water supplies in Kansas.

Maintain and improve the accuracy and precision of technical analytical data produced by all health (clinical), environmental, law enforcement laboratories, and physician office laboratories in Kansas.

**Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY2000**

Section		#Specimens Received	#Parameters Tested
<b>Diagnostic Microbiology</b>	<b>Bacteriology</b>	1,711	33,809
	<b>PFGE</b>	567	3,402
	<b>Mycology</b>	431	6,806
	<b>Parasitology</b>	3,459	6,918
	<b>Tuberculosis</b>	3,360	25,100
<b>Environmental Microbiology</b>	<b>Public Water Systems</b>	38,584	38,584
	<b>Ambient Water Monitoring</b>	1,470	6,525
	<b>Special Studies</b>	505	1,955
<b>Inorganic Chemistry</b>		5,899	118,862
	<b>Blood Lead</b>	3,731	3,731
<b>Neonatal Chemistry</b>		45,670	218,670
<b>Organic Chemistry</b>		7,240	202,520
<b>Radiochemistry</b>	<b>Public Drinking Water</b>	357	1,683
	<b>Ambient Water Monitoring</b>	45	2,445
	<b>Wolf Creek Monitoring</b>	762	6,750
	<b>Routine Env. Surveillance</b>	654	1,241
	<b>Radon Study</b>	0	0
<b>Serology</b>	<b>Hepatitis</b>	3,599	4,500
	<b>HIV</b>	13,051	13,950
	<b>Legionellosis</b>	ND	ND
	<b>Syphilis</b>	24,283	28,150
<b>Virology</b>	<b>Chlamydia</b>	31,226	32,820
	<b>Gonorrhea</b>	31,226	31,880
	<b>Rubella</b>	5,586	5,700
	<b>Viral Culture</b>	2,063	3,010
	<b>Virus Serology</b>	94	376
<b>TOTALS</b>		225,573	799,387

DIVISION OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES

March 28, 2000

Health Human Services  
1-18-01 #2  
A-1-1-2

Laboratory Director 66921

Office of Laboratory Safety & Quality Assurance  
Sr. Lab Scientist 108399

Executive Secretary 42249

**INORGANIC CHEMISTRY**  
Public Service Executive II 51920  
Applications Prog./Analyst III 164577  
Applications Prog./Analyst II 208072  
Lab Tech III 180155

**Mineral & Nutrient Unit**  
Chemist III 76713  
Chemist II 102757  
Chemist II 75168  
Lab Tech II 56020  
Lab Tech II 178880

**Metals Unit**  
Chemist III 59556  
Chemist II 72967  
Chemist II 59828

**NEONATAL CHEMISTRY**  
Sr. Lab Scientist 75787  
Microbiologist II 43460  
Lab Tech III 52929

Microbiologist III 57228  
Microbiologist I 46750  
Chemist I 67598

**RADIATION CHEMISTRY**  
Sr. Lab Scientist 75606  
Chemist II 70098  
Chemist II 51417  
Chemist II 70309

**ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**  
Sr. Lab Scientist 48653  
Lab Tech II 178882

**Volatile Section**  
Chemist III 145874  
Chemist II 48773

**Semi-Volatile Section**  
Chemist III 64965  
Chemist II 145875  
Chemist II 62245  
Chemist II 178864  
Chemist II 62420

**LABORATORY INFO. & REPORTING OFFICE**  
Public Service Administrator II 43178

**Reporting Office**  
Office Specialist 44469  
Keyboard Operator II 72417  
Keyboard Operator II 70294  
Keyboard Operator II 60938  
Keyboard Operator II 60087

**Laboratory Stockroom**  
Laboratory Tech. I 64662

**Organic Technical Support**  
Lab Tech II 102961  
Lab Tech II 63987  
Lab Tech II 176995  
Lab Tech II 178881  
Lab Tech I (.5) 163932

**LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OFFICE**  
Sr. Lab Scientist 47223

**Environmental Laboratory Program**  
Laboratory Improvement Specialist 66145  
Laboratory Improvement Specialist 73338  
Office Assistant IV 49427

**Breath Alcohol Program**  
Laboratory Improvement Specialist 52163  
Laboratory Improvement Specialist 176362  
Office Assistant IV 76638

**Medical Laboratory Program**  
Laboratory Improvement Specialist 176332  
Laboratory Improvement Specialist 176330  
Medical Records Tech 176335

**Training Program**  
Laboratory Improvement Specialist 57886

**DIAGNOSTIC MICROBIOLOGY**  
Sr. Lab Scientist 66437

**Bacteriology/Parasitology Unit**  
Microbiologist III 75967  
Microbiologist II 57008  
Microbiologist II 55915  
Microbiologist II 43472  
Lab Tech II 64939

**Mycobacteriology/Parasitology Unit**  
Microbiologist II 51318  
Microbiologist II 57303  
Lab Tech II 70173

**Media Prep/Glassware**  
Lab Tech II 45696  
Lab Tech I 63778

**Laboratory Mailroom**  
Office Assistant IV 77304  
Office Assistant II 67096

**VIROLOGY AND SEROLOGY**  
Sr. Lab Scientist 61519

**Virology Unit**  
Microbiologist II 41873  
Microbiologist II 67815  
Microbiologist I 76235  
Lab Tech III 53670

**Serology Unit**  
Microbiologist III I 46356  
Microbiologist II 54250  
Microbiologist II 52256

**ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY**  
Sr. Lab Scientist 51583  
Microbiologist II 44110  
Microbiologist II 50693  
Office Assistant IV 67624  
Office Assistant III 41205

Health Human Services  
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