

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE KANSAS FUTURES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlos Mayans at 1:30 p.m. on January 10, 2001 in Room 526-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Frank Miller -excused
Representative Michael O'Neal - excused

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Amy Kramer, Legislative Research Department
Lois Hedrick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending: See attached list.

The Chairman welcomed committee members, staff and guests. Members and staff then introduced themselves. Chairman Mayans expressed appreciation for each assignment of members, many of whom are chairmen of other committees.

Committee Organization

The Chairman described the organizational make-up and purpose of the committee as prescribed by Speaker Kent Glasscock; and outlined the committee's challenges to study the state's significant changing demographics relating to the aging population and ethnic groups and their effects on the state, and then determine appropriate recommendations or legislation required to meet these anticipated changes. (See mission statement, Attachment 1)

Chairman Mayans stated various sources will be asked to assist in providing knowledgeable national, state and local conferees from business, government, and religion. The plan this session is to identify pertinent issues; continue the study during the interim; and, at the 2002 Session, recommend appropriate actions and legislation.

All members of the Legislature will be asked to share ownership in these responsibilities. Generally the committee will refer assigned bills to other committees for action. Also, ordinarily the committee will meet each legislative day except Fridays.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2001.

KANSAS FUTURES COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST
JANUARY 10, 2001

[PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME]

[REPRESENTING]

Sarah Kessinger

Harris News Service

Bill Henny

Ks Gov. Consulting

Tom Sipe

Ks Home Assoc.

John Federico

Altavva

Mission and Goals of the Kansas Futures: A Strategy for Demographic Change Committee

Over the next 10-20 years, Kansas will experience significant changes in the make-up of its population. Like the rest of the country, Kansas' population will be older and more diverse than they are today. Consider the following:

- The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by 2020, Americans 65 and older will comprise more than 16 percent of the population, compared to about 13 percent today. By 2030, one of every 5 Americans will be 65 or older. The “oldest old,” those 85 and older, are projected to be the fastest growing age group.
- In Smith County, Kansas, one of every seven residents is 75 or older. More than one in 20 is 85 or older. That's the highest proportion of elderly residents of any county in the United States. Kansas has 7 of the top 15 counties that have the highest percentage of people 85 and older. Those counties are Smith, Lincoln, Republic, Elk, Decatur, Cloud and Osborne.
- Immigration is projected to be the dominant factor in the country's population growth, and Hispanics and Asians are projected to account for 7 of 10 immigrants from now through 2025.

In Kansas, these three trends—coupled with the continuing population shifts from rural to urban areas of the state—are likely to have profound impacts on almost every aspect of our lives. They'll affect everything from the availability of skilled workers to the availability and delivery of services, and from the size of the tax base to the very way government functions. Each of these changes will pose new challenges and new opportunities, and could have a real and lasting impact on the economic well-being of the state.

The Kansas Futures Committee was created to anticipate and plan for the impact these demographic changes will have on Kansas, so that the Legislature can consider the policy issues that will need to be addressed, as well as the steps needed to prepare for and respond to what's coming in the future. Although these impacts will be felt in both the private and public sectors, state and local governments in Kansas undoubtedly will find themselves faced with the need to provide new or increased services with ever-limited resources.

The Kansas Futures Committee will address the following two questions over the next two years:

1. What will the likely impacts of an aging, more diverse, and more urban population be on Kansas government over the next 10-20 years?

The Kansas Futures Committee is charged with identifying the key long-term trends or patterns that likely will result from these changing demographics, and assessing the likely effects they will have on state and local government, including the potential problems, challenges, needs, and opportunities that may arise.

Through hearings held in Topeka and across Kansas, the Committee will bring in experts and stakeholders in such fields as demographics, health services, workforce issues, government assistance programs, public policy, technology and communications, housing and community planning, and economic forecasting, to help carry out this charge.

2. What policy implications or other steps does the Legislature need to consider to prepare for the changes that are coming?

The Kansas Futures Committee will consider both the short-term and long-term public policy implications of these changing demographics and of the potential problems, challenges, needs, and opportunities they present. Over the next two years, the Committee will propose policy changes or other actions it thinks are needed to help ensure that state and local governments are better prepared to serve the needs of their citizens as effectively and efficiently as possible in the future. The Committee also will report on the likely time frames and estimated costs for its proposals. Finally, the Committee will consider appropriate mechanisms for

- reviewing and charting the changes that actually do occur in the future, and identifying new trends or challenges that weren't anticipated
- evaluating the state's progress at addressing the problems or needs that arise because of Kansas' changing demographics
- reporting this information to the Legislature so that it can periodically reassess whether the state's policies and programs are accomplishing the goals that were intended.

The work of the Kansas Futures Committee will provide the Legislature with a visionary framework for understanding the challenges of the future, and a blueprint for successfully meeting those challenges in the years to come.

Category	Sample Areas That Could Be Affected By Kansas' Changing Demographics
Health-Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • availability and affordability of services (i.e., in-home, day care, assisted living & rehab services; nursing homes & hospitals; insurance, etc.) • availability and quality of health-care professionals (i.e., nurses, aides, doctors, geriatric specialists, rural providers) • advances in medical treatments/technologies • delivery of services, and State oversight/monitoring issues • cost and resource implications for government programs
Workforce/Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing workforce (i.e., availability / make-up of workers in the future) • employment-related issues (i.e., salaries & benefits, recruitment & retention, diversity issues, worker skills & education, training needs and costs, telecommuting, transportation and day care, etc.) • changing marketplace (i.e., global economy, new industries, Internet commerce, e-government, etc.)
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impacts on the tax base (i.e., income, sales, property, inheritance taxes) • local bond issues (i.e., support for schools, roads, sewer/ water facilities, other infrastructure improvements) • tax credits and incentives • impact of entitlement programs on the State General Fund
Housing/Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public housing and transportation issues (need, cost, availability, affordability, etc.) • handicapped accessibility issues • home ownership issues (i.e., downsizing, upkeep, energy use & costs) • land-use planning issues (i.e., development of planned communities, urban sprawl, urban renewal, etc.)
Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact on law enforcement (i.e., crime rates, jurisdictional issues, officer skills, etc.) • safety/security issues
Technology/Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how goods and services are purchased/delivered • how information is shared/communicated • communication links (i.e., between urban/rural areas, workers and employers, government and citizens, health care providers and patients, schools and libraries, universities and students, etc.)
Education/Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality and availability of vocational / educational opportunities • delivery of services (i.e., impact of technology) • impact on school districts (i.e., population shifts.) • recreational facilities (i.e., availability & use, location, need, etc.)
Assistance Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cash, food, housing, energy, medical/drugs, respite/day care, etc. • reliance on not-for-profits for the provision of services, and oversight/ monitoring responsibilities • round-the-clock services (need, availability, and cost) • growth in entitlement programs
Governance Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demand for increased levels of services • support for tax increases • participation in elective offices • potential shifts in political philosophies