

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE KANSAS FUTURES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlos Mayans at 1:30 p.m. on January 16, 2001 in Room 526-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Deena Horst - excused
Representative David Huff - excused
Representative Gene O'Brien - excused
Representative Michael O'Neal - excused
Representative Tom Sloan - excused

Committee staff present: Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Amy Kramer, Legislative Research Department
Lois Hedrick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Speaker of the House Kent Glasscock

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairman Mayans indicated that efforts are under way to contact several conferees for future meetings, and indicated appreciation for the many kind comments received from members about planned activities. He then welcomed Speaker Glasscock and reminded the members that the Speaker originated the vision for establishing this committee.

The Speaker's Comments

Speaker Glasscock noted that in his 10-year tenure he had observed many committees, concerns, and issues come and go, most of which were short-term in nature and review. He stated his belief that Kansas and the nation is at a point where long-term vision is required.

The Speaker then presented his mission statement and goals for the committee (see Attachment 1). He believes the committee has a unique opportunity to analyze where the state is heading, attempt to determine salient issues, and then ask the Legislature to react and respond. Also, he submitted that no state in America has begun this process to determine what the next 20 years will be like. The Speaker wants Kansas to lead in this effort and stated the committee cannot analyze all of the issues within the confines of a 90-day session; but, if focused, could in two years develop a strategic plan that addresses the two questions defined in his mission statement. He asked the committee to consider the trends, focus on the few areas critical to the state's future, and create a vision and strategic plan for Kansas. The Speaker ended his testimony indicating he had met with chairs of other committees to enlist their involvement in this endeavor, and advised them that backing into the state's future is unacceptable.

Chairman Mayans thanked Speaker Glasscock for his testimony.

The Chairman then stated that for the time being there will be no formal committee rules. Also he advised that as committee minutes are presented, a draft will be distributed to members and, if there are any additions or corrections to call his office; otherwise the minutes will be approved as of 5:00 p.m. of the day presented.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2001.

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