

Approved: 2/19/08

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Brunk at 9:15 A.M. on January 31, 2008 in Room 784 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Brenda Landwehr- excused	Mario Goico-excused
Candy Ruff- excused	Mike Kiegerl-excused
Kasha Kelley- excused	

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Stephen Bainum, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Kerr, Secretary, Department of Commerce
Rae Anne Davis, Deputy Secretary of Workforce Services, Department of Commerce
Blake Flanders, Director of Workforce Training & Education Services, Department of Commerce
Keith Meyers, Director of Training Services, Department of Commerce

Others attending: See attached list.

The chairman called for any Bill Introductions. Natalie Bright, Government Affairs Consultant for the Wichita Independent Business Association introduced a bill about Age Discrimination, making Kansas law compliant with the Federal Age Law. It was received without objection.

Sherry Diel, Executive Director, Kansas Real Estate Commission introduced a bill about Amendments to real estate brokers' and salespersons' license act; advertising. It was also received without objection.

Representative Huntington asked Secretary Kerr if Commerce could do the same thing with the same amount of money as the Travel and Tourism Commission. Secretary Kerr stressed the need for grass roots support for travel and tourism. If the initiative does not move forward Commerce needs to form an advisory board to ensure that we have broad based support from the people in the industry. He stressed that Commerce has not cut the budget for travel and tourism.

Secretary Kerr introduced Rae Anne Davis, Blake Flanders and Keith Meyers who shared the explanation of a PowerPoint presentation about Training Programs, Workforce Services and KansasWorks (**Attachment 1**).

Representative Grant asked how much Federal money was received for these programs. Rae Anne replied that it was about 20 million dollars. The amount is dependent upon the unemployment rate in Kansas.

Representative Brunk asked if Commerce had discretion regarding how the money was divided. Rae Anne said that they had absolutely no discretion and the division of funds was driven by the Federal formula. Neither was the 10% set aside discretionary except that they do not say in what area it must be spent.

Secretary Kerr said that they were trying to build in more flexibility to meet immediate needs for companies.

Representative Huntington said that the Joint Economic Development Committee had proposed that we write our congressmen to designate training for those 55 and older. They are now included in adult training. Rae Anne said that in Kansas those 55 and older are a priority group.

Rae Anne continued with an explanation of the KansasWorks Program. She discussed the role of higher education and the problems of under supply and over supply of graduates in particular areas. She concluded with recommendations for KansasWorks State Board to develop.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2008.

COMMERCE & LABOR COMMITTEE

DATE: 1-31-08

NAME	REPRESENTING
Blake Flanders	Commerce / Regents
DARRY KERR	Commerce
Rae Anne Davis	Commerce
D. KEITH MEYERS	COMMERCE
Natalie Brugh	Society Human Resource Management
Jacquelyn Koehler	Kansas, Inc.
Leigh Keck	Rep. Gordon
Kaula W. Lert	KSAJ
Betsy Brownell	The Kansas Chamber
Sherry O'Diel	KS Real Estate Commission
Luke Bell	Ks Assoc. of REALTORS
Austin Hayden	Helm



**House Committee on
Commerce & Labor
January 31, 2008**

Kansas Department of Commerce


Mission: To Deliver the Highest Level of Business Development, Workforce and Marketing Services That Build a Healthy and Expanding Kansas Economy.

Workforce Services Vision

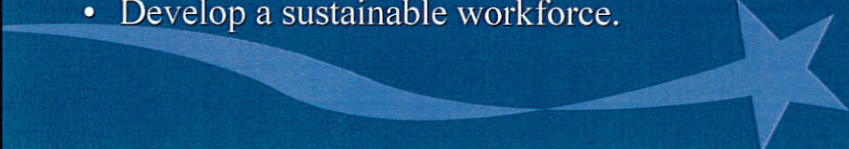
Provide economic prosperity for Kansas by
leading an effective workforce system

Mission

Provide workforce solutions to Kansas businesses and job
seekers



Guiding Principles

- Focus our limited resources to have the biggest impact.
 - Use the State's resources strategically to build training capacity.
 - Develop a sustainable workforce.
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Training Programs FY 2007

- KIT, KIR and IMPACT State Programs
 - 9,769 individuals trained
- Workforce Investment System – Federal Programs
 - 56,488 Kansans received services
 - 3,811 individuals trained statewide
 - Training services delivered through 5 local areas

Kansas Workforce Services

- Two WIRED Projects
- Offender Re-Entry
- Reaching Out to Kansans
- Workforce System Branding



Kansas Workforce Services

- Workforce Recruitment
- Disability Navigator Grant
- National Emergency Grants
- Collaboration with Kansas Postsecondary System

Positioning Kansas for Competitive Advantage



*Aligning Key Industry Clusters and
Occupations With
Postsecondary Education and Workforce
Development*

Aligning Higher Education with the Economy in Kansas

- **KANSASWORKS** State Board, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Board of Regents and Kansas, Inc. funded study.
- Tasks: industry and occupational analysis; employer surveys; promising practices research; focus groups and survey of postsecondary institutions; policy benchmarking; and supply/demand analysis.

Undersupply

Generally, we can say that there appears to be a shortage of individuals with knowledge and skills in the areas of:


- Accounting-related
- [Some] Information Technology-related
- Aviation-related
- Protective Services-related
- [Some] Agricultural-related
- Engineering (civil, chemical, industrial)
- Business/Banking/Finance
- Health Care-related
- Skilled Trades (electrician, carpenter, welder, tool and die)

Oversupply

Generally, we can say that there appears to be an oversupply of graduates from programs that are:

- [Some] Agricultural-related
- Family and Consumer sciences
- Theology/Philosophy-related
- Law (lawyers, paralegals, etc.)
- Fine Arts (creative writing, drama, music, theater, design, etc.)
- Psychology (including various kinds of counseling)


Oversupply

- Library Science
 - Political Science
 - Economics and Statistics-related
 - Biological and Natural Sciences
 - Languages
 - [Some] Information technology-related
 - History-related
 - Social Sciences
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Key Finding

Undersupply is more often related to technical occupations requiring less than four years of postsecondary education.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Repeat supply-demand analysis at the regional level.
 - Implement cost adjustments for high cost technical programs.
 - Provide “seed capital” for regional sector/cluster initiatives, and require research into root causes
 - Restrict the use of federal program training monies to certain targeted occupations
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Conclusions and Recommendations

- Set quantified goals for closing specific gaps.
 - Put the common core course project back on track and mandate common course numbering and transfer of credits for a core set of courses.
 - Develop a message campaign that highlights the importance of postsecondary education and specific skills.
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KANSASWORKS State Board Response

- Taskforce Appointed to Review Study in Depth
 - Shared workforce study with key stakeholders.
- Taskforce Recommendations:
 - Create list of demand occupations
 - Establish specific numerical goals
 - Message campaign
 - KANSASWORKS State Board as convener
 - KBOR common core course project
- Next Step: Taskforce to develop action plan and timeline

**KANSAS**
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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