

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Representative Geraldine Flaharty at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building. Chairperson Landwehr had been called to another meeting and arrived after the committee meeting began. Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee also attended the meeting in order to hear the presentation on Kansas Health Matters.

All members were present except:

Representative Phil Hermanson – Excused
Representative Owen Donohoe – Excused
Representative Peggy Mast - Excused

Committee staff present:

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debbie Bartuccio, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Robert St. Peter, Kansas Health Institute (Attachment 1)
Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary and State Health Officer (Attachment 2)
Chad Austin, Kansas Hospital Association (Attachments 3 and 4)
Jarrod Forbes, Vice President, United Health Group (Attachment 5)

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

An informational presentation on Kansas Health Matters was presented to the committee.

Dr. Robert St. Peter provided information as to why the effort is important, the challenges it addresses, some quick facts and what the program actually does and why it is unique. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Moser provided more detailed information concerning the program. Kansas Health Matters is a public website intended to help hospitals, health departments, community members and policy makers learn more about the health of their community and gather information on ways to improve it. This tool provides local health data, resources, best practices, news articles and information about community events related to important health issues. (Attachment 2)

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Chad Austin provided an overview of the Kansas Health Matters website. (Attachments 3 and 4) A question and answer session followed each presentation. The Senate Public Health and Welfare committee then left the meeting to attend the Senate session.

HB 2428–Health care providers; including the university of Kansas medical center for purposes of peer review

The committee proceeded to work the bill.

Representative Flaharty made a motion to pass out the bill favorable for passage. Chairperson Landwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 2490–Doctor of nursing practice degrees at Washburn university

The committee proceeded to work the bill.

Representative Bethell made a motion to pass out the bill favorable for passage. Representative Flaharty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SB 211–Pharmacists; dispensing prescriptions

Chairperson Landwehr opened the hearing on the bill.

Jarrold Forbes provided testimony in support of the bill. He stated the bill would amend the Pharmacy Act to allow a pharmacist to provide up to a three month supply of a legend drug, that is not a controlled substance or a psychotherapeutic drug, when a Kansas licensed practitioner has written a prescription for a smaller supply with ample refills to fill a three month supply. Many practitioners write prescriptions for maintenance drugs for a thirty day supply with multiple refills. This legislation would make it clear, that a Kansas resident is allowed to fill a ninety day supply when deemed appropriate by their pharmacist. The bill will benefit customers, but it will also reduce the unnecessary administrative burden currently absorbed by the physician and pharmacist community in Kansas. (Attachment 5)

Written only testimony in support of the bill was provided by Ron Hein on behalf of Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores. He stated the legislation would benefit patients who will not need to travel to their pharmacy as often to get their prescriptions, and will create greater efficiency for pharmacies. (Attachment 6)

Written only testimony neutral to the bill was provided by Mike Larkin, KPhA Executive Director. He stated while they have the utmost confidence in the professional judgment of Kansas' highly trained pharmacists, there may be times when a physician has designed a complicated dosing regimen for a patient - to test the drug's efficacy, for example - that shouldn't

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be later changed by a pharmacist. The bill has the potential to assume the physician's reasoning for prescribing a 30 day dosage by allowing a pharmacist to fill the prescription for up to 90 days. If a pharmacist fills a 90-day supply of a drug that the doctor only intended for 30 days, and if the drug did not work for the patient during the initial 30 days, then the remaining 60 days of the filled prescription would be wasted. (Attachment 7)

Following a question and answer session, the hearing was closed.

Chairperson Landwehr asked if there were any bill introductions.

Representative Denning made a motion to introduce a bill concerning health care predetermination requests for information relating to health insurance benefits coverage. The motion was seconded by Representative Mosier. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.