

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE KANSAS FUTURES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlos Mayans at 1:30 p.m. on February 15, 2001 in Room 526-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Laura McClure - excused
 Representative Mike O'Neal - excused
 Representative Bonnie Sharp - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
 Rita Mika, Director, Interfaith Caring Neighbors

Others attending: See attached list

“ICAN”

Rita Mika reported on the ICAN interfaith volunteer program that provides informal support services to people over the age of 60 years who reside in their own homes in the Lawrence area. There are no financial qualifications for those who need services.

A Robert J. Wood Foundation grant five years ago provided start-up funding. Since then, fifteen area church congregations partner the project with finances and volunteers recruited through those congregations and the community. Volunteers are not individually bonded, but are covered by general liability and excess automobile liability insurance policies.

Ms. Mika described the services provided: (1) “Friendly Visiting” by volunteers who visit or telephone elder neighbors, and may provide transportation to doctors, errands or other events, and do simple light housekeeping chores; (2) “Friendly Phoning” to check on health, safety and general well-being; (3) “Grocery Shopping”; (4) “Handyperson” who helps on simple household repairs and yard work; and (5) “Caregiver Respite” where volunteers offer 2-1/2 hours per week to give caregivers a break.

ICAN is not a United Way agency; 20% of its funding is from partner congregations; the remaining funds are from pie sales or similar fundraisers; working the concession stand at Sandstone; and grants. Last year ICAN had 180 referrals; 150 of which received more than one service.

Ms. Mika also recognized several problems that the elders encounter: homes that need major repairs and no money, high cost of drugs, isolation, and loneliness. “The latter is an area where ICAN volunteers do a good job, but the elders must be willing to accept help.” (See ICAN brochure, Attachment 1.)

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2001.